Miura introduces 'community-concept' learning. PAGE 2
Suspected burglar trapped inside Tottotville house. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 173

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

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Cheers, jeers on USCIS decision

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

» USCIS: Capped-out CW workers can apply for deferred action

Joy and disappointment greeted the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' decision of deferred action for capped out workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker nonimmigrant visa.

While CNMI officials thanked USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez for addressing the issue; others, however, called it a little too late with more than half of the affected workers having already left the CNMI as they followed the USCIS' strict rules that one must exit the CNMI if your CW-1 visa is about to expire.

In a letter addressed to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Delegate Gregorio

See CHEERS on Page 2

IN LAWSUIT OVER APPROPRIATION OF $400K FOR M/V *LUTA*

Lt. Gov. Hocog claims legislative immunity

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» But DelRosario says $400K 'gift' to family not protected by legislative immunity

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog has claimed that he is entitled to legislative immunity and therefore the Superior Court should dismiss the lawsuit filed against him and Department of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson by former Department of Public Lands secretary John DelRosario over the transfer of $400,000 in government funds to Luta Mermaid LLC, that owns cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

Hocog

But DelRosario, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, disagrees. Dockter said Hocog is not protected by legislative immunity for the acts he undertook without authority and which violated the law, his ethical obligations, and his duty to Commonwealth taxpayers.

In DelRosario's opposition to Hocog's motion to dismiss, Dockter said the Rota Legislative

See HOCOG on Page 4

FBI shares do's and don't's in active shooter scenario

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A Federal Bureau of Investigation program that instructs public schools and offices on what to do in the event of an active shooter situation was discussed by FBI agents Haejun Park and Jay Wolfe yesterday at the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Park, along with colleague Wolfe, shared that active shootings and stabbings occur more often than thought. Park said it can happen anywhere, as it has once already happened here on Saipan. "[The shooter] started out at the Kannat Tabla Shooting Range, ended up in Marpi with the actual gunman taking his life. We don't mention his name. We don't want to memorialize him," stated Park.

Another mass shooting incident was the 1999 Columbine High School shooting. It was this shooting that started the Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training or ALERRT.

"In response to the Columbine shooting, the U.S. came up with a program, ALERRT, or the Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training," said Park. "The FBI, in partnership with the University of

See FBI on Page 4

ERWIN ENCINARES
Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Jay Wolfe speaks before the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. To his right standing is fellow Special Agent Haejun Park while the rest of the Rotary Club officers listen to the discussion.

INSIDE

LOCAL
The students, administration, faculty and staff, board of directors, parents, families, and guests last Aug. 26 celebrated the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit.

PAGE 9

NATION
Ten weeks before the election and buffeted by conflicting advice from aides and advisers, GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump seems to be in full indecision mode about illegal immigration.

PAGE 15

WORLD
Palestinian authorities are silencing dissent by cracking down on free speech and abusing local journalists and activists critical of their policies.

PAGE 17

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Local

Miura introduces 'community-concept' learning

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Various types of visual aides, computers at the back of the room, and a different type of seating arrangement are the things that you'll notice once you enter Saipan Southern High School's classroom C-104. Welcome to the tiny kingdom of Mathematics teacher Dora Miura.

Miura is among the hundreds that were selected to receive the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching as representative of the U.S. territories—American Samoa, Guam Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Students' seats are arranged closely into groups of four instead of the usual rows. And this is one of the things that make Miura's instructional methods unique, especially that she's teaching Math—a subject feared by most students.

Instead of rows, the chairs are closely grouped into four as Miura encourages close interaction among her students. "You can see in my class that the chairs are close together, promoting the concept of community and building relationships."

JON PEREZ

Saipan Southern High School Mathematics teacher Dora Miura assists some of her students during lunch break. Miura is among the more than 100 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching recipients.

"The seating arrangements are grouped into four because I encourage them to talk to each other. So if one of them does not know how to do long division, they can help each other out," Miura told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The seats are not arranged by rows or columns. A lot of things that we do in the workforce require teamwork and so we have to prepare our kids for that. If we're just going to do rows and columns, then we are not preparing them."

"But of course they must be accountable for their own work, that's what quizzes and exams are for and they need to do that by themselves When they are practicing on learning concepts, I encourage teamwork, but I can also respect if they want to do something by themselves."

She added that she also encourages talking among her students when it comes to seatwork or problem solving during their lectures. "During the process of practice, I want them to talk and make sure they understand the lessons.

"I want them to say to their teammates in our class practices, 'don't just show me the answer, show me how it's done' and 'tell me how it works that way.' You can always hear that in my class," said Miura, who teaches four classes each day and with a total of close to 150 students.

"When I hear that kind of thing, whether questioning each other and asking for reason, then I know that I created a community. So they are also build relationships between themselves and also with me. And for me, those are key components for every classroom to be very successful."

She said that this concept and setup is also applicable to other subjects. "The concept of community and relationships is not only applicable in my subject but also in others. It facilitates interaction."

"That's why if you walk into my classroom, it may be a little noisy. And I like that as long as they are talking about the lesson and solving problems then I'm good with that. I'm always listening to them," added Miura, who is married to Paul T. Miura.

Extensive process

Miura, who will be receiving the award this Sept. 8, said the process of being selected as one of the awardees was extensive and would require much of your time. Fellow teacher Chris Cabrera submitted her name for nomination.

Miura was nominated by Cabrera last year and found out that she was one of the recipients of the award two weeks ago. "I'm honored that Mr. Cabrera thought I would be a viable candidate for the award."

"Being nominated is easy, but the process of being selected is quite extensive. You have to answer some questions and these are questions that would allow you to reflect on your teaching. These are more of an essay type questions," said Miura.

"I also needed to make a video of myself teaching that would show how I interact with my students. The afterwards, I have to watch the video and reflect on the way I teach. It is not a quick application process and it is really quite extensive,

She said that she needed to consult her husband before agreeing to undergo the extensive process of being a recipient of the award that honors the teachers of the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and the five territories.

"And I have to think about it if I wanted to go through the whole process. It requires much of my time and my thought. After consulting with my husband, he said okay and I went ahead with it. The application process is rigorous, judging too, panel of people who screen the candidates."

CHEERS

From Page 1

"Kilili" C. Sablan (Ind.-MP), Rodriguez said they understood the impact of the CW-1 cap to the CNMI's economy and the workers themselves including their families, most of whom have underage children.

"We understand the potential impacts of the CW-1 numerical limits on transitional workers and their families, and we recognize that the current circumstances affect long-term workers and residents whose CW-1 nonimmigrant status cannot be extended and may create particular uncertainty and hardship in some cases," Rodriguez said in the letter.

USCIS decided to grant a 240-day extension to employees who will have expiring CW-1 visas. This means the employee whose CW-1 visa that was previously approved, had already expired can still work for the next eight months.

This rule, however, applies if your current employer has already filed a CW-1 petition asking to continue your previous approved employment; the employer files the petition before the employee's CW-1 status expires; and the employer asks to extend the stay of the employee in the petition.

Torres thanked Rodriguez for the concern he has shown on the current situation of the CNMI. He said his administration made a huge effort in relaying the situation to the proper channels to avoid any economic or humanitarian effect.

"Since learning of the economic and humanitarian effects of the CW cap being reached early this year, I have made every effort to explain and relay the situation on the ground and why immediate action is necessary," said Torres.

"I sincerely appreciate today's announcement, but recognize that we have much work to do in ensuring this transition period achieves its goals with the least possible harm to the fragile CNMI economy and the many families who call our islands home," he added.

See CHEERS on Page 4

TRIPLE J RESTAURANT GROUP
is now accepting applications for the following position:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOB DUTIES
- Plans, directs, and coordinates the operations of Triple J's restaurant operations in Saipan
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- Directs and coordinates the organization's financial and budget activities

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- Must be skilled in food and beverage costing
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LOCATION
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas

COMPENSATION
This is an overtime exempt position. Salary will commensurate with education and work experience.

Interested applicants are requested to forward their resumes to the HR Director, Triple J Saipan, PO Box 500487, Saipan, MP 96950

Triple J is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer. Women, Minorities, Veterans, and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Government, through the Office of the Governor, with the CNMI Judiciary, Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Defender, will hold a public information meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. in the library at the Guma Hustisia – Iimwal Aweewe – House of Justice, Susupe. The purpose of the meeting will be to review the CNMI's USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan application with the public.

The low-interest loan will pay off the Judiciary Building Loan, which is in arrears and is owed by the CNMI Government to the NMI Settlement Fund. The additional proceeds from the loan will allow necessary construction, renovation, and repair of court facilities on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and to the Attorney General's and the Public Defender's offices on Saipan. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting and comment on the proposed projects.

Feds set to settle Korean's suit over denial of petition for naturalization

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Attorney General Loretta A. Lynch and U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh C. Johnson and other U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officials are finalizing a proposed agreement that will settle a lawsuit filed against them by a Korean businessman over the denial of his petition for naturalization.

Lynch, Johnson, USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez, and USCIS CNMI/Guam Field Office District Director Stephen Green filed yesterday in federal court their stipulation with plaintiff Ho Jin Yoon.

The parties, through their counsel, requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to extend the U.S. government's deadline to answer Yoon's complaint by an additional 14 days.

The parties said they made the joint request because they have been diligently working to execute a settlement agreement.

This is the parties' fourth joint request for additional time.

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division Office of Immigration Litigation Assistant Director Glenn M. Girdharry is counsel for Lynch, Johnson and co-defendants. Attorney Janet H. King is counsel for Yoon.

Girdharry and King informed the court that they have exchanged a draft agreement and require a short period of additional time to finalize and execute the document.

The lawyers said they will notify the court once settlement has been reached, and under the proposed terms of settlement, intend to jointly request the court hold the case abeyance pending Yoon's voluntary dismissal of the case.

Yoon has lost his U.S. permanent resident status.

In his petition for judicial review, Yoon asked the court to conduct a hearing on his naturalization application, grant him application for naturalization, and hold unlawful and set aside defendants' denial of his application for naturalization, and grant him U.S. citizenship.

Yoon was granted U.S. permanent resident status on Dec. 6, 1988 in Los Angeles, California. Sometime after he was granted his U.S. permanent resident status, he moved to Saipan, which at that time was not a part of the U.S. for immigration purposes.

According to King, on Sept. 10, 2002, Yoon was deferred for inspection at the Guam International Airport and was questioned about his time outside the U.S. in excess of one year.

At the Guam airport, King said, Yoon was offered the option to either appear before an immigration judge or to sign Form I-407, Record of Abandonment of Lawful Resident Status.

Plaintiff opted to sign Form I-407.

On Nov. 28, 2009, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization of immigration law) was enacted and extended the Immigration and Nationality Act and other immigration laws in the CNMI.

On June 3, 2010, King said, plaintiff applied for and was granted an E-2 nonimmigrant status.

Sometime after being granted an E-2, Yoon filed a Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.

King said that, on July 10, 2014, the USCIS denied Yoon's Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.

The lawyer said the denial was based on Yoon's voluntary surrender of his permanent resident status by signing on Sept. 10, 2002 Form I-407, Record of Abandonment of Lawful Permanent Resident Status, before an immigration officer at the Guam airport.

Yoon timely appealed to the USCIS a Form N-336, request for a hearing on a decision in naturalization proceeding.

On June 3, 2015, the USCIS affirmed its decision denying Yoon's naturalization application.

King said the decision states that Yoon is ineligible for naturalization because he abandoned his permanent resident status "again" by applying and obtaining an E-2 nonimmigrant status.

King said the USCIS erred as Yoon never intended to relinquish his reinstated permanent resident status as he did not voluntarily sign another Form I-407; did not voluntarily turn over his U.S. Permanent Resident Card; continued to file CNMI tax returns as a resident of the CNMI; and exhibited his continuing intent to return to the U.S.

UOG receives $1M from DOA

The University of Guam thanks the U.S. Department of Administration for releasing two checks for the total amount of $1 million yesterday. Last Thursday, DOA staff indicated that the university had no checks ready.

The payment has been received and will help alleviate some of the financial constrains UOG is facing.

We have verified our records, and after the receipt of the two checks today, the shortfall has now been reduced to $20 million.

We are looking forward to working with DOA to receive the remainder of the budgeted allotment or to develop a payment schedule in the next few weeks. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL
RISING UP IN UNITY
2016 CNMI LABOR DAY
Biba
Labor Day!
We want to take a moment to recognize our hard working and dedicated government and private sector employees. We are proud of what they have accomplished this past year, both individually and collectively. This coming LABOR DAY weekend enjoy the rewards of your hard work with your family and friends.
God bless you all!
Governor Ralph DLG. Torres
Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

HOCOG

From Page 1

Delegation Resolution 19-03 attempting to "appropriate" money is not authorized function of the Senate and did not benefit a group of people equally, rather, it benefitted Hocog's family.

Resolution 19-03 stated that Rota Legislative Delegation was authorizing the Finance secretary to make payment of not more than $400,000 to Luta Mermaid to pay for costs associated for the M/V *Luta*'s voyage from Louisiana to Rota. Then-Senate president Hocog introduced the resolution.

Then-assistant attorney general David Lochabay filed Hocog's motion to dismiss. Lochabay passed away recently.

In Hocog's motion, Lochabay said to carry out its critical role in the balance of separation of powers, and to promote the public's interest in having lawmakers who can freely debate and act on behalf of the people, legislative immunity broadly protects all acts carried out in the legislative sphere.

"Even if legislative acts are carried out with malicious intent or in violation of law, no matter—legislative immunity covers them too," Lochabay said.

Lochabay said DelRosario's causes of action in his lawsuit against Hocog are founded upon acts that occurred within the protected legislative sphere: attending a legislative session, introducing a resolution, and voting to adopt a resolution.

"These are clearly, and indisputably, legislative acts protected by immunity," he pointed out.

Lochabay said Hocog's complained-of conduct—attending a legislative session, and introducing and voting upon a resolution—plainly falls within the legitimate legislative sphere, and so is protected by legislative immunity.

Lochabay said the allegations that these legislative acts may have been carried out in violation of the Open Government Act or the Government Ethics Act does not destroy Hocog's cloak of immunity, because "the claim of an unworthy purpose does not destroy the privilege."

Lochabay said Hocog's intent in carrying out the complained-of conduct is not at issue; nor, is whether he carried out the complained-of conduct in violation of some law at issue.

"What matters here is whether defendant Hocog's conduct fell within the legitimate legislative sphere—it did," he said.

In DelRosario's opposition, Dockter said the issue is whether Hocog has met his burden of showing that his acts which are not authorized by the NMI Constitution—and which violated the government ethics code, violated his fiduciary duties, and improperly spent public funds—are protected activities under the legislative immunity provisions of the NMI Constitution which makes him immune in his official capacity and in his personal capacity.

Dockter cited two reasons that Hocog has not met his burden.

First, the lawyer said, the acts were ad hoc decision-making, which benefitted only a few, and was not the formulation of policy.

Second, she said, regarding Hocog's liability under the Open Government Act, the provisions of the OGA abrogate legislative immunity.

In any event, Dockter said, the acts which violate the OGA are also not "legislative activity."

Dockter said the action involved one private company owned by Hocog's family not the entire community or multiple private companies.

She said the public at large did not benefit, rather, Luta Mermaid LLC—a privately owned company—was simply given $400,000 with no obligation to spend the money for the community, to account for the spending of such money, or to repay the money.

"It was essentially a gift orchestrated by defendant which resulted in a benefit to his own family. This, it was an ad hoc decision, and it benefitted few," Dockter said.

The lawyer pointed out that just because the act taken is a "vote" does not automatically make the act legislative for purposes of a legislative immunity claim.

Dockter said voting is not enough because Hocog voted not on public policy, not on a law that affects the entire community, but rather he merely acted to give his family $400,000 of public monies.

Dockter said the appropriation of money to a private company owned by Hocog's family via a resolution was no more a legislative act by the Senate than handing down a sentence of incarceration to a convicted person would have been.

FBI

From Page 1

Texas of San Marcos, came up with a training program so we could go around the country, worldwide as well, to teach law enforcement officers how to respond to active shooters."

Park also told Rotarians of what an active shooter is by using the past incident on Saipan. "Here on Saipan back in 2009, that was an active shooter in its truest definition. The gunman has access to weapons, randomly killing people, indiscriminately spraying into a crowd. That's the definition of an active shooter. Somebody who wants to create as much havoc, to take out the largest number of people as he can," said Park.

"In this program, we want to promote worldwide, not only in the U.S., Saipan, and Guam, but we want to promote it in Europe, in Asia, everywhere across the world, so that law enforcement knows how to respond to this," said Park. "The reasoning behind the ALERRT program is for responders to have a universal system to recognizing allies from foe. Because in the past, there have been crazy responses. So many different law enforcers show up, and we don't know who's friendly who's not. So we have a coordinated training program to help combat that situation."

Schools on Saipan are also front and center of the program. "We give them [schools] guidance with how to respond to an active shooter. Somebody who's trying to create as much havoc inside the school program," said Park.

Rotary Club of Saipan secretary Eli Stoilova asked if hotels would be included in the program for the safety of the tourists.

Park responded with, "We can provide these to hotels, but normally, for now, it is designed for schools and offices and things like that. But yes, we can provide a general training. Every hotel's layout is different, but normally, if you can't run, barricade yourselves in. Get into a room, barricade that door. Don't let anybody in. those are the same principles the local public schools adhere to."

Park stated that the main goal of the responders to mass shootings are to stop the killings no matter what.

"Our lives at that point are regardless. That's why we took an oath, that's why we are sworn to our duty. Our duty at that moment in time, that split second, is to stop the killing. Whether it be addressing the gunman by ourselves, we got to do it quickly and safely. That's our main goal," said Park.

CHEERS

From Page 2

"There are many good, hard-working people in USCIS and the Department of Homeland Security who have listened to the CNMI's concerns in both 902 consultations and bilateral discussion and have worked hard to provide this relief to many."

Sablan, in a statement, also echoed the same statement adding that Rodriguez's department "intends to address the humanitarian issues arising from its May announcement to close applications for CW-1 permits for the rest of fiscal year 2016."

He said the USCIS considered a deferred action to long-term CNMI workers whose CW-1 permits had already expired or will expire before Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2017.

"The decision will not affect workers who have already left the [CNMI]. But those who have remained after their permits expired or whose permits have not yet expired will be able to apply for deferred action," Sablan added.

240-day rule

Here are some points of the 240-day rule, according to the USCIS, the additional employment authorization period begins on the date the employee's CW-1 status expires and continues until USCIS issues a decision on the petition or until 240 days after the CW-1 status expires, whichever comes first. The terms and conditions must remain the same as those previously approved.

Furthermore, if the employer's petition requesting an extension of stay is granted, the period of authorized employment under the 240-day provision ends on the date of the decision. The employee's CW-1 status is extended, and the employee may continue employment with the same employer during the validity period of the extension.

If the employer's petition is granted, but the application for extension of status is denied (referred to as split decision) the employee's work authorization under the 240-day provision ends on the date of the decision.

If the employee's CW-1 status has already expired, the employee must stop working at that time. The employee is eligible to obtain CW-1 status based upon the approved petition, but can only do so by leaving the CNMI, obtaining a CW-1 visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad, and returning to the CNMI no earlier than 10 days before the approved employment start date of the petition.

If the employee does this and is admitted to the CNMI in CW-1 nonimmigrant status, then the employee may work in the approved employment during the approved validity dates of the petition.

If the employer's petition is denied, and the employee's CW-1 status has already expired, the employee's work authorization under the 240-day provision ends on the date of that decision. The employee must stop working.

Mixed reactions

Members of the community had mixed reactions on the USCIS ruling with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair and Marianas Visitors Authority board member Gloria Cavanagh thanking Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Torres, and Sablan for the efforts they have shown in trying to find a solution to the issue.

"This is good news for those remaining CW-1 employees that are facing much hardship with the fiscal year cap. This will also alleviate worsening conditions with our delicate labor shortage. Our plight for an opportunity to grow our economy is directly tied to having an adequate labor pool. We need a more realistic cap in order to do this," said Cavanagh.

"Although I don't totally understand the mechanics nor the politics of this kind of consideration, I am led to believe that this is a huge accommodation for the CNMI. For this HANMI is very thankful."

Cavanagh, however, said the issue has been tough to some CW-1 workers' families especially individuals who have kids here. "I must admit though that it is still tough dealing with the splitting up of families that have already occurred over the last couple of months."

"Personally speaking, we have sent all but one employee back to their homeland to wait for approval of their CW-1s under the new fiscal year. A few of them still have young children being taken cared of by close relatives."

She said the next thing that needs to be done is the CNMI getting an increase in the cap in order to get the needed workforce that would help sustain the Commonwealth's economic growth. "The next job is to work on getting approval of the needed increase in our cap."

"The CNMI is growing exponentially. The original cap was to afford the supply of labor for the operations of the then economy. With growth the way it is now, we are going to fall short very soon with our labor market again."

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios also welcomed the news of USCIS' deferred action that would be beneficial to all CW-1 workers that were affected by the cap, their families, and employers.

"This deferred action provides relief for eligible workers. Since the announcement that the CW-1 cap had been reached in May, businesses had to make adjustments within their operations as some of their employees affected had to leave island," said Palacios.

"Businesses have instituted training programs and created partnerships to address their human resource requirements. CW-1 workers and their families have made hard decisions: to separate their family or to leave their home altogether."

She said the CNMI's renewed economic activity, especially on Saipan, needs the sufficient labor force to support. "Businesses need to maintain those who would be eligible to support their operations. With the continued economic growth in our islands, we need a workforce to support and sustain this growth."

"Our economy is on recovering from five years ago. We have many new hotel developments that have started construction and some are now in the planning stage. New businesses including restaurant franchises have opened."

"In addition to the local workforce capacity, we still require our CW-1 workers. We thank Congressman Kilili Sablan and Gov. Torres for working with USCIS."

CNMI Chinese Association director Rose Chan said although it is a welcome news, it would be better to have a more long-term solution on the issue and the case of long-term guest workers here that spent most of their lives helping the CNMI whether on its best or lean years.

"It's good news for the employees and the employers. We just hope the USCIS can make a long-term solution on this issue since the CNMI's economy is getting stable," said Chan, who owns several businesses on Saipan including Canton Restaurant in Garapan.

Chan added that some Chinese businesses had to temporarily shut down their operations due to lack of employees as they need to exit the CNMI because of expiring CW-1 visas. She is hoping for a better and long-term solution.

"A long-term solution would improve and secure the CNMI's future. These are employees who stayed and worked here for 10, 20, or 30 years. They have become part of Saipan and called the is-

See CHEERS on Page 5

CHEERS

From Page 4

lands their home."

She, however, felt bad for those who had already left the CNMI since they have no choice but to follow the USCIS' ruling. "Those who have expired CW-1s need not leave but I really felt sad for those who went home and followed the law."

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services district director David Gullick, when he spoke to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce early this month, said employers and employees should check the dates of their I-94s and make sure they exit before the expiry date.

Mami Ikeda, who was one the community volunteers that helped victims of Typhoon Soudelor last year, said she was thankful for the USCIS ruling but at the same time sad for those who had already gone home and are waiting for their documents to be released.

"[It's] sad to know nothing applies to those who complied to their [USCIS] rules and left the island. That they required people to file the application, which I hope is for free. Required the people to apply for [an employment authorization document], which is going to [cost] $390 and takes months to get approved," said Ikeda.

"Most of all, they still require you to leave the CNMI once your new CW-1 is approved, get a visa, and come back. Is this what we wanted?"

Katrina Punzalan, who was born on Saipan to Filipino parents and is now studying at the University of Washington, said it was ironic to learn about the deferment plan given by the USCIS to those who have expired CW-1 visas.

"It's ironic how the new deferment plan gives leeway to those who overstayed after their documents expired—exactly what the USCIS has been warning people not to do—before this plan was announced," said Punzalan, whose parents needed to exit as they were affected by the fiscal year cap.

"I think it's unfair and a little insulting for any side—federal or local—to think that this is near an adequate response to the issue. It's a slow response announcing this after over half of the affected individuals have already been forced to flee. They don't benefit from this at all. Those that are eligible to in the future aren't even guaranteed protection due to having to demonstrate 'exceptional" circumstances,' said Punzalan.

United Filipino Organization president Bong Malasarte, whose group helped in collecting information of long-time CW-1 workers that was part of the USCIS' requirement, said the 240-day extension is a big help unlike the 10-day grace period which wasn't enough to process documents or find a new employer.

"We are very thankful to Gov. Ralph [DLG] Torres for sharing the status and concerns of CW-1s to the USCIS. Also thank you to all that supported our signature campaign that we submit to the Governor's Office and the USCIS recognized the current situation of our long-time foreign workers in the CNMI," said Malasarte.

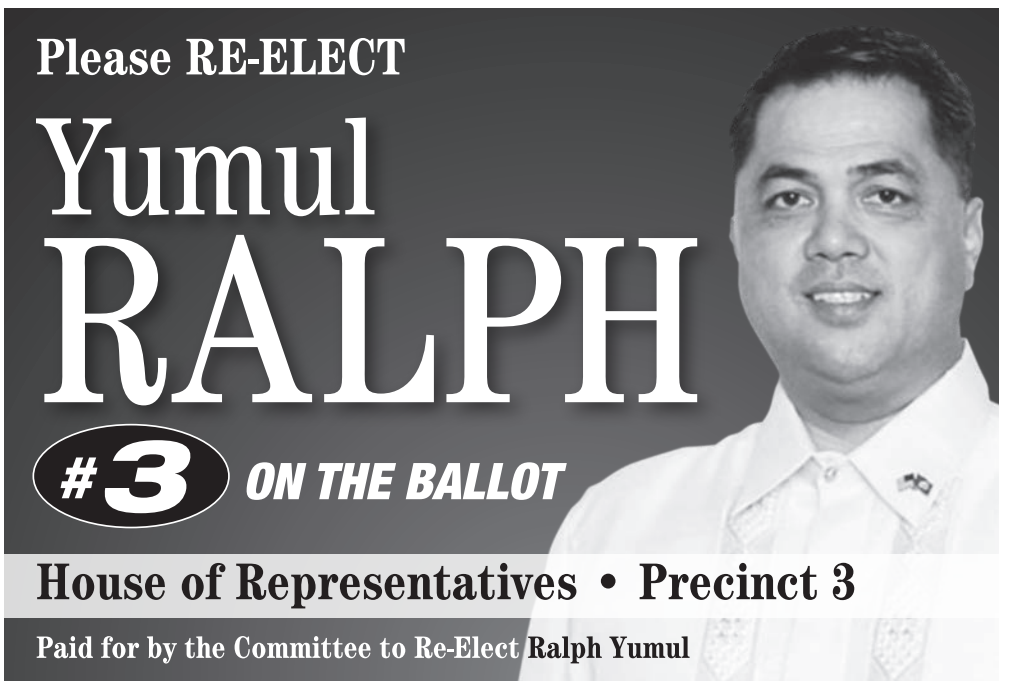
"I salute both sides, for those who went back home because they don't want to risk their current status and also those who made risks for the sake of their families here. For me, there is always a chance to come back."

He, however, cautioned all CW-1 employees to be cautious of individuals who would take advantage of the situation and at the same time feeding false information. "I hope all CW-1 employees would use the 240-day period the right way. This is a huge chance given to us by the USCIS."

"This is the time to help each other. Help those who are in need of work to the best of their abilities. Also, know the right information and the correct details. Don't just settle for second-hand information or from what you've heard from others. The information is available from credible sources," added Malasarte.

Rene Reyes, the Marianas Association for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. founding president, said it was a positive development in the ongoing plight for improved status of all long-term foreign workers.

"It is welcome news to all and I thank all the individuals who made it happen. But for those who had already left and were not included in the deferment, it is frustrating. These foreign workers were the ones that were affected by the cap, they are the ones that needed to exit to the extent of leaving their children."



WE WILL NEVER FORGET
FIELD OF HEROES
15th Anniversary of September 11th
This community event will be an opportunity for family members to honor and support our Veterans/Military Personnel, Law Enforcement Officers, Fire and 1st Responders by purchasing a 3'x5' American flag ($20), in their honor.
This community event will be hosted on all 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota.)
Dates to Remember:
Monday, September 5th - Sites set up
Tuesday, September 6th - Opening Ceremony
Sunday, September 11th - 9/11 Memorial Ceremony
Tuesday, September 13th - Closing Ceremony
Flags will be given to sponsored families after the closing ceremony.
Field of Heroes Site:
Saipan - CPA Airport Field
Tinian - Fiesta Grounds
Rota - Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport
FLAGS AND SHIRT ORDERS AND PAYMENTS CAN BE RECEIVED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
SAIPAN:
iShop at Fiesta Resort
iShop at Kanoa Resort
iShop at Paseo de Marianas
Shirley's Coffee Shop, Susupe
Shirley's Coffee Shop, Garapan
TINIAN:
Mayor's Office
ROTA:
Mayor's Office
FLAG = $20 each
EVENT SHIRT = $15 each
or GET (1) FLAG + (1) EVENT SHIRT
FOR ONLY $30
TITLE SPONSORS:
Tan Holdings
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
MAJOR SPONSOR:
POWER 99 FM
SAIPAN, CNMI
MINOR SPONSORS:
IT&E Life In Motion
BIG
BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
GPPC
STAR Marianas Air
BANK OF SAIPAN
EXPRESS
Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Bank of Hawaii
Marianas Variety
TakeCare
Modern Stationery & Trading Co. Inc. dba MODERN OFFICE SUPPLY
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Suspected burglar trapped inside Tottotville house

A burglar was trapped inside a house at Tottotville in Koblerville when the owners sought help from their neighbors who then surrounded the residence early Monday morning.

One of two police detectives had to kick the door of one of the bedrooms as defendant Cheyenne Sablan refused to open it.

The other detective had to calm the female owner of the house down because she was hysterical and screaming.

Sablan, 33, was arrested and taken to the Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing on charges of criminal mischief and burglary.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a $7,500 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Sept. 6 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Sablan. Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government.

Police Detective Daniel T. Joab stated in his report that detectives Elias Saralu and Jeffrey Norita responded to Tottotville housing on Monday after learning about a burglary in progress at 1:31am.

Outside the house, detectives Saralu and Norita met the couple, who told them that the burglar was still inside one of their bedrooms.

The detectives directed the burglar, who was later identified as Sablan, to open the door, but he refused to comply. With the consent of the male owner of the house, detective Norita kicked the door to open it. Sablan was then arrested.

A neighbor told police that he was sleeping at his house when he heard yelling and screaming. The neighbor ran to the house of the victims, who told him that a burglar was still inside one of their bedrooms.

The neighbor said he walked to the window and saw Sablan trying to break the window to get out from the bedroom. The neighbor told Sablan to relax because police were already coming.

Detective Joab said during his interview the male victim said his wife woke him up at 1:30am and told him she heard someone trying to open the room's door.

The victim said he exited from their bedroom and noticed that the window screen was broken and saw Sablan holding his laptop inside the bedroom.

He then shouted to his neighbors for help. He and some of his neighbors then surrounded the house so Sablan could not get out and escape until police's arrival.

The victims said the same bedroom was burglarized twice before. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Child molester arrested again for another sexual abuse of a minor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Steven Romie Aguon, a 36-year-old sex offender who has several prior convictions including voluntary manslaughter, was arrested again on Monday for allegedly sexually abusing a 10-year-old boy in Chalan Kanoa.

Aguon was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Citing prior convictions, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio increased cash bail to $100,000 from the original $50,000 cash bail that the court imposed in issuing an arrest warrant.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Aguon. Assistant attorney general Shannon Foley appeared for the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 7 at 9am.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that three police officers responded to a residence in Chalan Kanoa on Sunday night to investigate a report about sexual abuse of a minor.

Pangelinan said the officers met a woman, who alleged that Aguon sexually abused her 10-year-old son.

Pangelinan said she also responded and during her interview, the boy's father stated that his son came home late and revealed that he went biking around with Aguon.

The father was concerned because he is aware that Aguon was once arrested for sexual abuse of a minor. When the father felt something wrong he confronted his son to tell the truth.

The son confessed that earlier that day he was playing basketball at Chalan Kanoa District 3 when Aguon came and asked to follow him to his house to build a camp.

Aguon brought the boy to an abandoned vehicle parked outside his house. The defendant then sexually abused the boy inside the abandoned vehicle.

The father later checked on Aguon, but the suspect ran away.

The boy was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center, where a doctor examined him.

In October 2010, then-Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona Manglona imposed a two-year prison term on Aguon for sexual abuse of a minor girl.

In October 2012, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona slapped a 24-month prison term against Aguon for immigration document fraud.

Aguon was also arrested and charged before for, among other cases, sexually abusing minor girls. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and served prison term over the killing of a Kosraean man in Kannat Tabla in 2001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that **NOMER L. ARCANGEL** is not an employee or representative of **NJCM LOGISTICS DBA. ROYAL PACIFIC EXPRESS.**

Any transactions entered into with Mr. Arcangel on behalf of our company will not be honored.

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

POWER PLANTS 1 AND 4
SAIPAN COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
PW 85, DR-4235-MP

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) intends to provide federal financial assistance under the Public Assistance program to the Saipan Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), through the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Emergency Management Agency to restore and protect facilities at the Power Plants 1 and 4 on Saipan (proposed action). Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The proposed action would occur at two locations, one in the Village of Lower Base (Power Plant 1) and one in Puerto Rico (Power Plant 4), Saipan, CNMI. The project area is depicted on the CNMI Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Map Number 6900000032C, effective date April 3, 2006. The FIRM shows that the project area is in Zone AE, an area with a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and an established base flood elevation of 6 feet.

The purpose of the proposed action is to restore and protect the power plant facilities, Power plant 1 at Lower Base and Power plant 4 at Puerto Rico. With new systems station service power can be restored immediately to initiate the full power plant operation. These facilities were damaged by winds and rain associated with Typhoon Soudelor, which caused damage throughout CNMI between August 1 and 3, 2015. The proposed action would replace the damaged generators at both power plant facilities. In addition, CUC proposes to repair the typhoon damage to the structure, roof and wall panels of the power plant facilities, Power plant 1 & 2 and 4. A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Any party interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at the address or phone number below.

FEMA has determined that the proposed action is the only feasible alternative available to CUC. The proposed action would not adversely affect the floodplain and would benefit the public by restoring power supply to the community including critical facilities such as the main hospital. CUC believes the slab for the generator once completed will be at an elevation of 10 feet above sea level, at power plant 1. At power plant 4, this is not a concern as it is at least 30 feet above sea level. Further mitigation is not necessary. The proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards. CUC is responsible for implementing and monitoring the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be obtained by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov, or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than September 12, 2016. No action will be taken before this date.

Justino & Laisang Ramon
P.O. Box 503442
(670) 288-6952
Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of	] FCD-AD-CIVIL
The Adoption Of:	] ACTION NO.
Rachel Ann	] 16-0335
Leilani Ramon	]
Minor Child	] NOTICE OF
By:	] HEARING
Justino & Laisang	]
N. Ramon	]
Petitioner(s)	]
_____	]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 9/12 day of 2016 at 1:30 PM in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2016.

/s/ Patrick V. Diaz
Deputy Clerk of Court

Independence for Guåhan Task Force holds successful general assembly

GUAM—The Independence for Guåhan Task Force held its first general assembly last

Aug. 25 at the main pavilion of the Chamorro Village in Hagåtña.

More than 80 people gathered to listen to informational presentations, take educational materials and discuss their own questions or ideas about an independent Guåhan.

The Independence for Guåhan Task Force will continue to host general assemblies every month, in addition to other outreach activities, thus providing a regular forum for the community to ask questions, obtain information and sign up to promote decolonization and independence for the island.

This first general assembly was held in honor of Ed Benavente, a Chamorro teacher, leader at Sagan Kotturan Chamoru, and former Maga'låhi of the group Nasion Chamoru.

Benavente passed away in July, and dedicated much of his life to inspiring people to see the possibilities for an independent Guåhan.

Each general assembly will feature an informational presentation that focuses on an important aspect of the movement toward decolonization.

This first general assembly focused on what it means for Guam to be an unincorporated territory of the United States, or what is commonly referred to as "status quo."

"Members of our community regularly ask why 'status quo' is not an option in Guam's political status plebiscite," said Independence co-chair Victoria Lola Leon Guerrero.

"We felt it was important to illustrate the many ways in which being an unincorporated territory has hindered our political and economic development and has impacted the social and cultural welfare of our community."

Task force members shared the history of how Guam came to be a possession of the United States, and how the rights of those who live here are decided by U.S. Congress.

Zach, a 19-year-old attending the University of Guam who was at the meeting, expressed gratitude for the presentation.

"To think that Guam is a possession is like something from the 19th century," he stated.

"It's an outdated notion, something that shouldn't exist anymore.

Learning this history really opened my eyes as to why Guam needs decolonization."

The Independence for Guåhan Task Force believes these types of activities are vital and commends Gov. Eddie Calvo and the Commission on Decolonization for their recent proposal to hold regular village meetings on this issue starting early next month.

The next community discussion on decolonization will be hosted by the UOG Social Work and Chamorro Studies Programs at a forum focusing on decolonization updates from Guåhan and New Caledonia on Sept. 1 at the UOG CLASS Lecture Hall from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

The next Independence for Guåhan general assembly is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 22, from 6pm to 7:30pm at the Main Pavilion of the Chamorro Village.

The educational focus for the evening will be on the concept of sovereignty.

For more information, please contact Independent Guåhan chairperson Dr. Michael Lujan Bevacqua at (671) 988-7106, email independentguahan@gmail.com, or visit www.independentguahan.com. ***(PR)***

MVA FY 2017 membership now open

The Marianas Visitors Authority is now accepting returning and new members for Fiscal Year 2017.

Membership is open to all businesses and individuals and is $100 annually. Applications are available at www.mymarianas.com.

Concepcion

"It's an exciting time to be a part of our tourism industry, and we encourage businesses and individuals to stay involved and informed by becoming a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We say 'Tourism is Everybody's Business,' and membership allows individuals from every sector of the community to become more active in our work at the MVA."

This fiscal year the MVA has gained over 180 members including tour operators, travel agencies, hotels/motels, restaurants/bars, retail/sales, spas, car rentals, and more.

Membership benefits include: detailed monthly statistics on visitor arrivals; opportunities to advertise products and services through the MVA's offshore offices in China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Russia, and Hong Kong and via websites and social media in Chinese, Korea, Japanese, Russian, and English; opportunities to serve on the MVA's Ad Hoc Committees for China, Korea, Japan, Russia, and Destination Enhancement; voting rights to elect the MVA Board of Directors; access to visitor exit surveys, and more.

Interested individuals can learn more about the MVA by visiting any of their language-specific websites at: mymarianas.cn, mymarianas.co.kr, japan.mymarianas.com, mymarianas.ru, mymarianas.com.tw, or mymarianas.com.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Valencia Tenorio at vtenorio@mymarianas.com or Community Projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta at jbabauta@mymarianas.com or call 1.670.664.3210. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Lower Base Transfer Station, Marpi Landfill closed on Monday

In observance of Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 5, 2016, both the Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill waste disposal facilities will be closed all day. ***(PR)***

Kagman cluster schools PTSA meeting on Sept. 1

The Kagman cluster schools—Kagman Elementary School, Kagman High School, and Chacha Oceaview Middle School—will hold its PTSA meeting on Sept. 1, 5pm.

PTSA is a place where parents can get active and do something with the schools. Your partnership and involvement is highly encouraged!

All PTSA attendees get raffle tickets to win prizes the night of the meeting and for a chance to win in the big end-of-the-year raffle. The more you attend, the more chances you have to win!

Should you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers listed below.

- KagES main office: 664-3911
- COVMS main office: 664-4100
- KHS main office: 664-3780 ***(PR)***

VA Benefits outreach today

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (Non-health) will be conducting a Veterans Benefits Outreach today, Aug. 31, 2016, from 9am to 3pm at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan.

A VA Benefits counselor will be available to answer Benefits questions, and assist with the claim process.

Points of contact are Ruth Coleman at 322-0035 or Chris Duenas at 1-671-648-0090/93. ***(PR)***

Family Grief Support Group to meet tomorrow

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting tomorrow, Sept. 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

Compassionate Friends of Saipan offers understanding and hope to parents, siblings, and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause.

It provides a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences while respecting and supporting each other, and listening.

"We have been there. We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no right way to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen," a statement from the group read.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionate-friends.org. ***(PR)***

ARC's Club 200 set for Oct.15

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 27th Annual Club 200 is scheduled for Oct. 15 at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The event will feature a super hero theme that pays tribute to everyone in our community who helped others following Typhoon Soudelor. Tickets are $100 in advance and $125 at the door. Tickets include dinner, drinks, live entertainment, and a chance to win amazing door prizes.

For more information on Club 200 or how you can volunteer, contact the local Red Cross chapter at 234-3459.

The CNMI chapter was chartered on October 8, 1978. The first chairman was Gilbert C. Ada, who served for six years.

During these early years the Guam Chapter assisted the CNMI chapter in development of its services. In 1986, after a reorganization plan was implemented, a new six-member board of directors was appointed led by then senator Juan "Pan" Guerrero. Under new leadership, a chapter headquarters was set up in a war-damaged Japanese power plant near the Saipan International Airport. Currently the chapter has four paid staff members and a board of directors of 19 members.

The chapter is responsible for services on the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan as well as the Northern Islands. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-021

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PRESTRESSED CONCRETE POWER POLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from FEMA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-16-021, Supply & Delivery of Prestressed Concrete Power Poles"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 21, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 6, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email address- joe.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-022

LIFT STATION RENOVATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lift Station Renovation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the renovation and upgrade of the S-6, S-10, SR-1, and A-7 Sewer Lift Stations.

The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of wet wells, valve vaults, a bar screen and flow monitor vault, removal of existing pumps, pipes, fittings and appurtenances, installation of new pumps, guide rails, control panels, pipes and fittings, installation of a new fence and gate, the installation and operation of a temporary wastewater bypass system, and other related work.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 30, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

ONE (1) original and FIVE (5) hard copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-16-022, Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.
Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 1, 2016** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, W/WW Chief Engineer via email address-john.riegel@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez , W/WW Junior Engineer via email address-nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, W/WW Senior Engineer via email address-birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JAMES SIROK
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

NMPASI: Rates of childhood obesity in CNMI on the rise

September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. The Center for Disease Control states that about 1 out every 5 children in the United States has obesity and certain groups of children are more affected than others. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey done with CNMI High School students over a 10-year period had shown a decrease in the rates of obesity, but those rates are once again beginning to rise. Childhood obesity can lead to lifelong physical and mental health problems, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. Children who have obesity may also face other challenges like bullying and stigma.

» CDC: 1 out of 5 children in US has obesity

According to the CDC, unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical inactivity are among the leading causes of childhood obesity. So as parents what can we do to help address the problem obesity amongst our children? Below are a few suggestions provided by the CDC that can help prevent obesity and support healthy growth in children:

■ To help ensure that children have a healthy weight, energy balance is important. To achieve this balance, parents can make sure children get adequate sleep, follow recommendations on daily screen time, take part in regular physical activity, and eat the right amount of calories.

■ Parents can serve children fruit and vegetables at meals and as snacks.

■ Parents can ensure access to water as a no-calorie alternative to sugar-sweetened beverages.

■ Parents can help children get the recommended amount of physical activity each day by encouraging them to participate in activities that are age-appropriate and enjoyable.

Addressing childhood obesity can start at home, but also requires the support of our community and programs like the CNMI Non-Communicable Disease Bureau and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition.

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. typically encounter adults who are affected with physical impairments, like diabetes and hypertension, while others are affected by mental health issues, like depression, that may be the result of obesity. These disabilities may create barriers to employment, access to services, and community living.

For more information about the prevention of Childhood Obesity, please visit http://www.cdc.gov/features/childhoodobesity/ or you may contact the NMPASI at 235-7273/4. ***(PR)***

Bank of Hawaii donates $25K to NMC

Northern Marianas College recently received $10,000 from the Bank of Hawaii, bringing the total donation the bank has made to the community college to $25,000. Earlier this year, the Bank of Hawaii Foundation contributed $15,000 to support Northern Marianas College's business programs.

"We recognize and are happy to support the important work that Northern Marianas College is doing to help our students prepare for meaningful careers in business, education, nursing, criminal justice, natural resources, and hospitality management," said Rose Sumor, Bank of Hawaii vice president and branch manager-Gualo Rai branch.

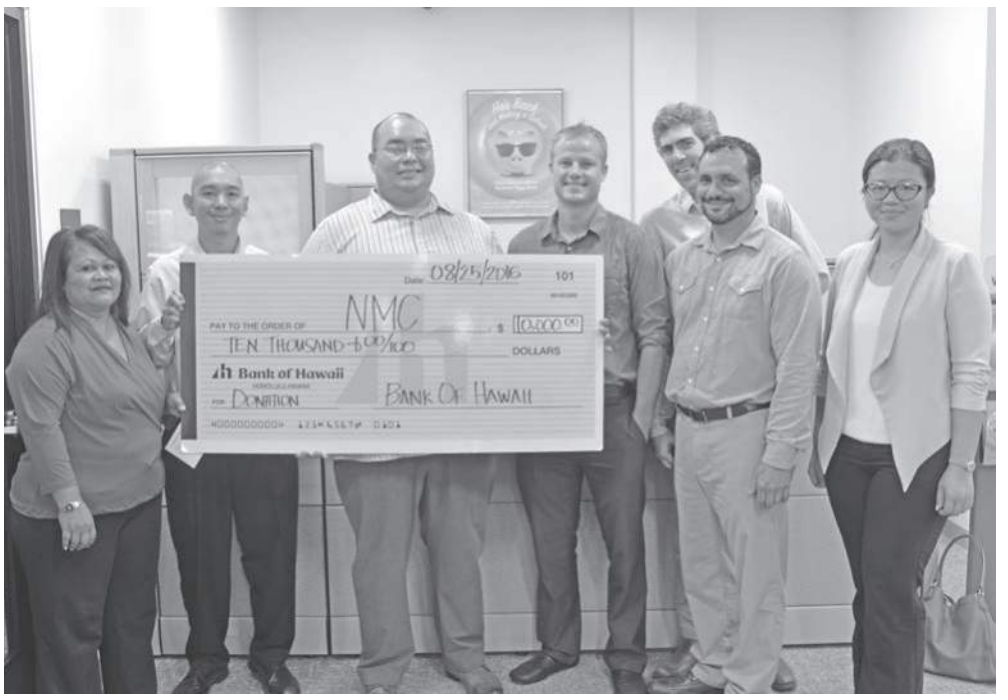
The presentation of the donation was made at the Gualo Rai branch, which was recently opened for business several months ago. In addition to Sumor, Bank of Hawaii assistant vice president and assistant branch manager Herminio Matsumoto was on hand to present the check.

Accepting on behalf of NMC were David Attao, NMC interim president; Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services; Jacqueline Che, director of Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Brady Hammond, Language and Humanities chairperson and NMC's Accreditation liaison officer; and James Glenn, NMC Foundation director.

"NMC students and employees are extremely thankful to Bank of Hawaii for its very generous contribution to NMC," said Attao. "The company has been an unwavering supporter of higher education in the Pacific and we are glad to have Bank of Hawaii as a strategic partner as we expand higher education opportunities for our students."

Attao added, "Graduates from our business programs and in our other degree program have gone on to become successful entrepreneurs, corporate executives, and business and government leaders."

"Bank if Hawaii's donation allows the institution to continue providing high quality programs so that more of our graduates can fill critical workforce needs and contribute to the local economy," said Attao. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Marianas College interim president David Attao, third from left, accepts a $10,000 donation from Bank of Hawaii vice president and branch manager Rose Sumor, far left, and assistant VP and assistant branch manager Herminio Matsumoto, second from left. The donation brings the total contribution the bank has made to NMC to $25,000 this year.

PTC signs on as Green Gala Emerald Sponsor

Through its contribution, Pacific Trading Co. has signed on as the latest sponsor supporting Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's work in conserving the islands' natural resources. PTC's $5,000 in-kind donation was made to support MINA's Green Gala fundraiser, to be held on Friday, Sept. 2, 2016.

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has worked to implement various conservation projects, including the Plastic Bag Challenge, the Schools for Environmental Conservation workshops, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Program, the Adopt-A-Bin Project, and Managaha Pride Campaign.

In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event. The organization is supported by project grants and from generous contributions from local businesses and community members.

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening to celebrate over ten years of working with island communities for conservation.

To become a sponsor of the Green Gala, please contact Becky Furey at 233-REEF (7333), or email minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 31, 2000

Bill offers $10K incentive for construction of water catchment

In a move to encourage residents and businesses to build water catchment system, the government will offer tax incentives of up to $10,000 under a piece of legislation cleared yesterday by the House of Representatives. These tanks — to be built to catch rainwater — will help in the efforts to conserve groundwater resources, particularly on Saipan where residents are perennially hit with shortage during the dry months, according to lawmakers. Three government agencies had backed the measure sponsored by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, chair of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, aimed at promoting the utilization of rain to supply fresh water to island residents.

Mitsubishi cars on Saipan defect-free

Mitsubishi cars that were shipped and are now being sold in the Northern Marianas automobile market are not among those reported to have defects that are now being recalled by the Japanese car manufacturer. Triple J Motors, which distributes Mitsubishi vehicles in the CNMI, announced yesterday that it has received official letter from the Japan-based automobile manufacturer emphasizing that all cars shipped to Guam and the CNMI are free from defects.

August 31, 2004

TSA gets seven federal screeners

Seven federal screeners arrived on island Monday to help local Transportation Security Administration personnel conduct passenger and baggage inspection at the airport. TSA-Saipan director John Peoples said the screeners from the agency's national screening force will be staying for at least three weeks to temporarily augment the local TSA workforce. Peoples said the local TSA's manpower shortage got even worse after Supertyphoon Chaba hit the CNMI and wrecked the homes of at least 14 screeners. The affected employees are currently on indefinite leave of absence, he said.

CUC cuts legal counsel fee to $194 an hour

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday renewed the contract of its legal counsel for another year, but cut his retainer fee from $9,000 to $7,000 a month.

CUC chair Francisco Q. Guerrero said the corporation could not let attorney Brien Sers Nicholas go at this time as CUC has at least seven pending lawsuits. The reduction was made as a cost-cutting measure, he added. The board's decision, however, is still subject to condition that retaining Sers Nicholas' legal services is proper under procurement rules. Moreover, Sers Nicholas is currently off island and has yet to concur with the amended contract. During yesterday's board meeting, CUC vice chair Herman P. Sablan made the motion to retain the private lawyer's services, following a discussion on whether it is legal for CUC to sole-source legal services. CUC procurement officer Mariano Fajardo assured the board that internal procurement rules allow it.

August 31,2005

TSA allows medical scissors on planes

The Transportation Security Administration has lifted the ban on carrying a certain type of medical scissors on flights, as part of its efforts to rethink passenger screening. The federal agency is now allowing ostomy scissors with pointed tips with an overall length of four inches or less when they accompanied by an ostomate supply kit containing related supplies, such as collection pouches, wafers, positioning plates, tubing, or adhesives. According to TSA, an estimated 750,000 individuals who have undergone ostomy surgery carry the kits in the United States.

'Pass a new budget or shut down Legislature'

If the Legislature fails to pass a new budget for fiscal year 2006—which starts four weeks from now—it is essentially saying that it should be shut down, senate majority leader Paul Manglona said. The House passed on first reading House Bill 14-371 last week, allotting $50 million (from $37.2 million) to the Public School System, leaving the other agencies with less funding. The House identified last week $156 million in available resources for other agencies, as contained in House Concurrent Resolution 14-3. The government is currently operating on a $213 million continuing resolution. The administration earlier certified that due to a projected decline in garment sector revenues next year, the only available resources would be $206 million. The House, Senate, and the Executive Branch have only four weeks left to act on the budget bill.

ESFDB celebrate opening of new school year with Holy Spirit Mass

The students, administration, faculty and staff, board of directors, parents, families, and guests gathered at San Francisco de Borja Church on Friday, Aug. 26, to celebrate the annual Mass of the Holy Spirit.

The Mass of the Holy Spirit is a beloved tradition for Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja and amongst many Catholic schools.

Led by the school's administrator and principal Carmen H. Atalig and assisted by the school faculty, the Mass began with a procession by the students with their parents, and then preceded by San Francisco de Borja parish administrator Reverend Father Isidro Ogumoro, Rev. Fr. Neil Bullos, and newly installed bishop Most Reverend Father Ryan Jimenez as the main celebrant.

"The Mass of the Holy Spirit has marked the beginning of the academic year. This Mass will open our academic year in a special way," said Atalig.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja administration, faculty, and students pose for a souvenir photo with Bishop Ryan Jimenez and Rev. Fr. Isidro Ogumoro.

Atalig further stated that the purpose of the Mass "is to ask the Holy Spirit to be with all of us in the Luta Catholic school community; all who learn here, all who teach here, all who work here; to be able to see the presence of God in our community and the world."

"For Bishop Jimenez, celebrating the Mass is a personal significance for ESFDB," added Atalig. "Bishop Jimenez was hired by the late Sister Mary Benedict San Nicolas, RSM as a religion teacher for ESFDB in 1995 before moving to Saipan. Twenty-one years later, Bishop Jimenez is now our shepherd leading the flocks of the CNMI Catholic Faithfull's.

"On behalf of Bishop Jimenez, he would like to extend a *Dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase* to the parents, students, family members, faculty and staff for the meaningful message of the Holy Spirit and reception," said Atalig

"It's always nice to see our students, staff, family and friends come together to pray for God's wisdom and inspiration for the new academic year. The Mass of the Holy Spirit is celebrated at the beginning of the year so that students might turn to the Spirit's aid as they prepare to take upon new areas of study," said board chair Edward C. Maratita, Jr.

"Our congratulations to Bishop Jimenez, who will shepherd our Catholic faithfull's in the years to come. I encourage our Catholic faithfull's on Rota and the CNMI as a whole to rally behind our new bishop and support his new mission as our shepherd," added Maratita.

After the Mass, a potluck dinner was served at the Roundhouse.

The administration, faculty, staff, and board of directors of ESFDB would like to extend their appreciation to the parents for their assistance in making the Holy Spirit Mass celebration a success. ***(PR)***

SYP holds professional mentorship meal exchange

The Saipan Young Professionals Committee held its first mentorship event on Monday, Aug. 29, 2016 at Giovanni's Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The goal of the event, dubbed professional mentorship meal exchange, was to further engage the SYP with Saipan Chamber of Commerce members by providing a casual setting to network and connect with some of the most successful business people on island. The mentors provided insight to their field of expertise and offered advice to SYP's budding entrepreneurs.

SYP would like to thank the following Chamber members who generously donated their time to mentor at this event: David Largent (Imperial Pacific), Donna Krum (Friends First Marketing), Alex Youn (AC Pacific dba I Love Saipan), Tyrell Pauling (Hyatt Regency Saipan), Sylvan Tudela and Adora Tudela (Chelu Photos), Perry Inos, Jr. (Triple J), Chris Concepcion (Marianas Visitors Authority), and Alex Sablan (Century Insurance).

The mission of the Saipan Young Professionals Committee is to inspire, network, and engage to influence positive change and foster growth that will shape the future of the Marianas. If you are interested in being a part of this prestigious group, please call 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Young Professionals Committee and Saipan Chamber of Commerce members let their hair down in the photo booth during last Monday's professional mentorship meal exchange at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 08/26/16 **Closing Date: 09/09/16***

POSITION TITLE:	**STATISTICS SPECIALIST I**
PAY LEVEL:	25/01 – 25/08
ANNUAL SALARY:	$17,700.92 - $24,889.35**
LOCATION:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan
POSITION TITLE:	**STATISTICS SPECIALIST II**
PAY LEVEL:	27/01 – 27/08
ANNUAL SALARY:	$ 19,511.46 - $27,437.44**
LOCATION:	Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

** The salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net
NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Notice to the General Public

Mihaville and Koblerville Subdivisions

(August 29, 2016)

Pursuant to *Section IX: Waiting List Management* of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) revised *Tenant Selection Plan,* NMHC wants to respectfully inform the general public of the following:

- NMHC is opening its 2 Bedroom Unit Applicant Waiting List for its Saipan-based Section 8 New Construction Multifamily Program and will begin accepting applications on August 29, 2015. Applications can be picked up and submitted at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan during regular operational hours – Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, except holidays.

NMHC Housing Specialists will review and process the applications by date and time received, and will formally contact applicants to schedule an eligibility appointment.

Thank you and please direct all questions regarding this public notice to David Chargualaf, Program and Housing Division Manager, or Melinda Babauta at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan at Tel. Nos. 234-6866 or 234-9447 or via email at phdmanager@nmhcgov.net and housingspecialistncp@nmhcgov.net respectively.

LAND FOR ASSIGNMENT

1. **SAN ROQUE**
   LAND AREA: 1124 SQ.M. WITH 3 RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL UNITS
2. **SAN ROQUE - FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY & NIKO MARKET**
   LAND AREA: 1111 SQ. M. WITH 3 COMMERCIAL UNITS
3. **SAN ANTONIO - ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH**
   LAND AREA: 757 SQ.M. WITH 2 RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL UNITS
4. **DANDAN – NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE**
   LAND AREA: 5,000 SQ.M. WITH 3 BEDROOMS RESIDENTIAL UNITS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL EMER AT 287-0693 OR 234-1818

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVI, Issue No. 173

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Greetings from Earth, Proximans

"We hit the jackpot here."

—Astrophysicist Guillem Anglada-Escude, on a planet "more or less" like Earth orbiting Proxima Centauri, the star nearest to our solar system

An Open Letter to Our Friends on Earth II or Proxima b (or whatever you call your planet):

Greetings, fellow cosmos dwellers!

We were thrilled to hear the news that your Earth — we hope you don't mind if we call it that — is a lot like our Earth. Slightly bigger, yes. And we're told your year takes only 11 days (which means Christmas is always just around the corner, right?).

And since you're so much closer to your red dwarf star than we are to the sun, the sky on your world is orange without a trace of blue, creating an eternal sunset effect (and, we suspect, excellent tanning opportunities).

Granted, our scientists haven't actually seen your planet, which they call Proxima b. Rather, they've deduced your presence indirectly. Our astronomers theorize your planet may sustain life because it resides in the so-called "Goldilocks Zone" of the universe where water is possible. They think you might all live underground like Morlocks because your planet is bombarded by X-rays.

No matter. We think it is time to broach a cultural exchange and solicit your views on how the universe should be run, assuming that we are the only sentient beings in the celestial vicinity.

We're sure you (a) aren't hostile and (b, as in Proxima) have plenty of questions for us. We have a few for you. First, as Lois Lane asked Superman in the first movie: Do you … eat? (If so, we wonder if your world has a food so sublime as chocolate.)

Do you have poetry? Superheroes? Television? Grubby, can't-look-away political races for top offices? Perpetually futile sports teams? Low-carb diets? Mean bosses?

Do you have any interest in visiting other worlds? If so, put Earth on your Must See list.

You'll be bigger celebrities than Kanye (well, maybe not in his mind). You can expect humans to swoon at the news of E.T.'s arrival, except for the large chunk of the population that thinks you've been here for centuries.

We wonder if you saw our galactic postcard from our Pioneer 10 space probe, launched in 1972 and again the next year on Pioneer 11?

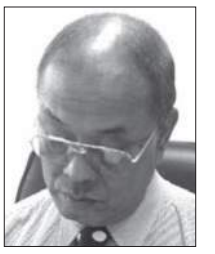
The one with the plaque that shows the nude figures of a man and a woman, along with diagrams of the solar system. Or maybe you came across the gold records (with cartridge and needle) that we launched into space on Voyager probes in 1977? If you played the record, you found sounds and images that portray the incredible diversity of this world.

Maybe you heard the message from President Jimmy Carter. "This is a present from a small distant world, a token of our sounds, our science, our images, our music, our thoughts and our feelings. We are attempting to survive

See GREETINGS on Next Page

Klaru Na Sentimentun Publiku

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Un` kuestion mapega gi website Marianas Agupa: Haye para un` bota na Nobiembre? I resutta tiha huñgang-yu` ni unabes: 72 pot sientu para independente, sais pot sientu ti para u fan manbota, dos pot sientu para republican.

I mayottmente na sentimentu atrasau `an para pa`gu para umarikononose ni manma`gas yan kandidatun republican. Hagas humuyuñg i likau ginen i plasa. Magpu` esta i feria fuera de "biba" yan maneskada!

Haf` umesague botadot na biahe? I asuntun gaige gi monedan familia. Pot mas ke 20 años na tiempu sumen taya` subida (hatsadan sueddu) `nai siña manhaguñg ñaihon dididi`. Haf` mas na ofresimientu i klaru na taya` bidan miyu umadelanta ha`anen familia siha?

I mayamag inetnon pattidan republican mas para u inatisa i problema gi señgsoñg siha sa` kada unu kunsu kuat gi hinanauña. Ni kuantu na "biba" ti u inayuda i kandidatu siha. Guseña "biliba" `nai kada unu umespihan maisague`. Lastima!

I para uma-areglan inetnun tinaka` mas ke 30 años estake para u guaha kampun inafamauleg gi mapgau sino machalapun na katdume gi laderan politika.

Maggem Na Finattun Nosa`

Asolas, malag i baranda-yu` teñga gi taftaf oga`an `nai hu fagchacha`e finattun tropan nosa` gi troñkun lemon. Haf na feria. Namagof! Lau pa`gu na biahe kulan maggem finattun niha. Un` ratu manohge silensiu, dispues man-maliñgu.

I triste na finattu fuetsau umobligayu` humusga kau guaha fina` mensahe. Ti hu danche dispues de hu ebalua konsensiaghu. Hu ayu`us kumu un` finapus.

Gi lemlem tautau, man-mattu ta`lu kulan despedidan ha`ane lau manmagof na biahe. Kontentuyu` ni lini`ehu.

Mamatkiluyu` ya sige hu akanteha kau gaige enfin triniste giya guahu pat sino mamamaila` chatsaga na fina` sitasion?

`Nai dumeskansa-yu` guihe na pueñge, tumunog-yu` gi fondun gua`ut konsensiaghu `nai huli`e un` dañges kumeke matai guafiña gi halum dañkulun liyañg. Matachuñg ñaihonyu` para bai li`e haf` otru gaige gi oriya.

I kumeke matai na guafen dañges ala kuenta modun linala` tautau-ta gi señgsoñg siha. Chafleg! Lau i membron republican gi lehislatura sige mafachuchu`e para umasaguaniye mas buchin niha yan Best Sunshine! Taigue interes publiku!

Megai fumatkiluye pinadesen niniha na tiempu dispues de 20 años na pinadesin mismu sueddu gi halum mattirun gastun linala`. Hu huñgug katen paluma, era un` chuñge` gi papa` nubladu na mapagahes paraisu. Guiya numa`eyu` esperansa na mangai kampu hit bumira modun linala`ta guatu gi ginefasaga. Gaige ennau gi dos patman kanai miyu!

Riku Na Tradision

Maliñgu hagas modun linala` tradision gi tautau tanu`. Modetnu na klasen linala` ta embrasa desde finagpu` gera guine. Manhanau i natibu para i moseria—lugat cho`chu`--`nai madiñgu i lancheria yan peskan tasi.

Huñgan, ti manriku hit materiat lau todu i tiempu mapepega sufisiente neñkanu` gi lamasan sena diariu ni mañaina-ta. Kasi mansiña hit lokue` chumogue parehu gi modetnu na modun linala`ta.

Makat ta bira hit tatte gi hagas tradision tanu`. Machum ayu na potta petmanente. I presente na areglamientu mauleg ta atetuye para tali`e karerata mona. Estague` na sahyan gaige. Fan ma-udai ya tafan hita umakanteha futtuna-ta para minauleg todu.

Pot dañkulu na chanda modun linala`ta na biahe mina presisu inarikonosen familia pot para ta simientu sensian dinaña` yan inafamauleg. Guaha siempre `nai tafagcha`e seriosu na chinatsaga `nai dinaña kada unu sumen presisu.

Direchun Sudadanu

Pot finatai un` marinerun MV *Luta*, ilelegña si Guelu Fadañg (Tomas Mendiola) na muñga kuentus "satbahe" pot haf` masusedi ya debi tafan mamanu`e sensian "sibilisau".

Lastima inapagatña sa` gi mismu sakudida ha ñgañgas hila`ña ensegidas. Yangin magahet na un` komprendi sustansian "sibilisau" pues seguruyu` na ti un` ñega direchun sudadanu umekspressian maisague sa` direchu ennau. Na ti esta pa`gu tafa` kustumbre telefon halaihai?

Todu ti otdinariu na sinisedi gi halum komunida siempre u kuentus i publiku piot i gai piniligru na asuntu tat kumu matai marineru. Huñgan mauleg ta nañga resuttan inbestigasion. Lau ni ñgai`an na tiempu `nai siña un` diroga direchun sudadanu gi usun petsonat na ekspressiu. Magarentia este na direchu gi papa` i konstitusion.

Pot Chaleg: Kumonfisat i amiguhu Magoo. Estaba si pale na ha yeyeñgyuñg iluña hulu` yan papa` `nai sigi amiguhu kumonfisat. Nina`e pinitensiaña.

Mientras mananayuyot malofan si pale. Sigi si pale kumanta ume`ekuñgog dandan gi iyoña Walkman. Ilegña si Magoo, "Yangin dandan ha e`ekuñgog pues ni hafa gi isauhu ha huñgog".

See KLARU on Next Page

One thing is certain in the Clinton Foundation scandal: Hillary didn't avoid the 'appearance' of conflict

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

The first thing you need to know about the Clinton Foundation is that it's not, contrary to what Donald Trump said last week, "the most corrupt enterprise in political history." It's not even close. Nor is it, as Trump also claimed, "Watergate all over again." The Republican candidate has a gift for hyperbole; he doesn't know much about history.

But, as with Hillary Clinton's ongoing email controversy, the foundation stories are still troubling, because they reflect a stubborn unwillingness by the Democratic nominee to listen to her critics — feeding the widespread suspicion among voters that she's not trustworthy.

The furor is tragic, too, because it has given a bad name to an otherwise successful philanthropic enterprise — one that has helped save millions of lives around the world.

Clinton may have been close to the mark when she said last week, "I know there's a lot of smoke, and there's no fire."

Even before Clinton became secretary of state in 2009, it was clear that her family's charitable enterprise, which depended heavily on donations from foreign governments and corporations, was a potential problem.

"Foreign governments and entities may perceive the Clinton Foundation as a means to gain favor with the secretary of state," then-Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) warned at the time.

Lugar and other senators urged the foundation to ban all foreign donations, but the Clintons decided not to go that far. Instead, they agreed to clear new foreign donations with the State Department and to disclose all their donors. Their intention, Hillary Clinton said, was "to avoid even the appearance … of a conflict."

In practice, though, several of the Clinton foundations didn't comply fully with their own rules until their lapses became public last year. And it's now clear they failed the "appearance" test too.

Emails uncovered thanks to a conservative group's lawsuit show that Doug Band, who helped create the Clinton Global Initiative, sought access to State Department officials for Clinton Foundation donors.

In some cases, Band didn't get what he was after. (Los Angeles entertainment executive Casey Wasserman wanted a U.S. visa for a British soccer player with a criminal record; no dice.) In at least one case, he did — but that was a meeting for the crown prince of Bahrain, a U.S. ally who would have gotten his appointment eventually without the extra help.

Still, the emails revealed an assumption on Band's part — and some donors', too — that contributions to the Clintons' charitable work should move them to the head of the line.

It's not a pretty picture when contributions give donors privileged access to members of Congress. It's even less appetizing when money seems to promise special access to American diplomats.

Granted, there's no evidence that any Clinton Foundation donors got tangible favors in exchange for their generosity. Clinton may have been close to the mark when she said last week, "I know there's a lot of smoke, and there's no fire."

But that's still a problem. A good synonym for "smoke" in this context is "appearance" — exactly what Clinton promised to avoid.

Meanwhile, the Clintons have taken some steps to allay concerns — while insisting nothing was wrong in the first place.

Bill Clinton has announced that if his wife is elected president, he will resign from the boards of the Clinton Foundation and its affiliate, the Clinton Health Access Initiative. The Clintons' daughter Chelsea will remain on both boards.

The Clinton Foundation will stop accepting foreign donations and corporate donations; the health initiative, which depends heavily on foreign government funds, will not.

But those limited measures won't solve the whole problem. Donors and fundraisers will still be tempted to see the foundations as a channel for currying favor with the new president if Clinton is elected.

Here's one modest further step recommended by Norman L. Eisen, President Obama's former ethics officer: Clinton should sign a strong ethics agreement barring herself and her closest aides from discussing foundation business with anyone, including her husband and daughter. And she should impose tough transparency rules to guarantee that if donors get access, it's quickly made public.

There's nothing preventing the Clinton campaign from announcing that kind of rule now — the sooner the better.

Until then, Clinton supporters, including reluctant Bernie Sanders voters, have been reminded again of all the things they didn't love about Hillary Clinton.

Lucky for her she's running against Donald Trump — who has been even less transparent about his own tax returns, business dealings and foreign interests than she has.

GREETINGS

From Page 10

our time so we may live into yours. We hope someday, having solved the problems we face, to join a community of galactic civilizations. This record represents our hope and our determination, and our good will in a vast and awesome universe."

Yes, we'd love to visit your planet — assuming it has an atmosphere — just as soon as we invent a way to get there in less than the 78,000 years it would take at 36,000 mph.

Our world, as Carter hinted, is growing crowded. Sometimes we have trouble getting along. There's some trouble with the climate. With protecting habitat for all creatures.

So Proxima b looks to us like a promising Plan(et) B, just in case things go really south on this blue orb. (Astronomers tell us our sun will burn out in 5 billion years or so. We don't want that to sneak up on us.)

We hope you keep an open mind about living with humans, Proximans. (Proxipersons?)

And Merry Christmases!

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KLARU

From Page 10

Hafaisenyu` kau ma`asi`igue` ni isauña. Hu tanchu` si pale para u faisen. Dios mihu!

■■■

`Nai matai amiguhu, humanau guatu potgatoriu. Ha soda` halum hagas pale` niha dumidimu. Nina manman para u gaige guihe si pale`.

Hafaisenyu` haf` guaha. Hu sañgane na ti ha apase si pale` chinile`ña chupa gi Payless. Ilegña, "Nañga Iku sa` guahu un` tiempu sumaki limosnan gima` Yuus". Huñgan hanana`lu ayu na potgatoriu `nai `oggan. Pot fabot, salape` gima Yuus? Mauleg na ti guahu manhuhusga sa` hu patek guieñgmu.

■■■

Gaiga` un` biha dos burukentan palao`an na loru. Sinañgane ni un` pale para u koni` guatu gi konbentu puede nina` fan mamatkilu ni dos lahe na loru. Gigon mapega gi halum kasiyas man-mamaisen, "Malagu` hamyu manmagof?" Ilegña un` pale` gi otru, "Yuti` biyas lisayu sa ma-oppe tinayuyot-ta". Dios tiampare!

■■■

Sige dos bachet mapipet gi halom tenda man-ayeg nesessidat niha. `Nai umasoda` ilegña i unu, "Ai, esta la apmam desde ke umali`e hit na dos.". Uma`atan i dos pipulan pot mansañgan. Era hagas bachet i dos amku`. Kasi pot lache na pineduñg palabra lau inayu`us konrespetu!

■■■

Manatma un` nietu umeyag finu` Chamorro. Maseha matotompu` sige de ha chalegua`gue`. Hana` magofyu` i guiya mismu gumaguat-gue` umeyag hila` nanaña.

■■■

Tihu tuñgu` haye muna` bubu amiguhu Magoo na ha lapblayu` gi finatoña. Ilegña, "Iku, hu tuñgu` na tatamudu hau, cha`mu konfifitma". Dispues, sige ha dispressia i taya` bidan niha i republican gi lehislatura "ya malañgag man-mamaisen ayudu ta`lu?" Nina` bubu ni finaisen ayudu lau klaru na ni hafafa ha` che`chu` niha. Finaisen tatamudu!

As school year begins, don't hold back

By ORLANDO R. BARONE
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Orlando R. Barone is a writer in Doylestown, Pa. Readers may send him email at orby114@aol.com

The games of the 31st Olympiad fade into history and the school year of 2016 begins. Parents everywhere are preparing their own little Olympians to charge into the classroom and return with the gold. Or at least a B-plus.

The competitive spirit is alive and well in the classroom just as in the Olympic arena. We don't always award gold medals, but being top of the class is an honor coveted by kids and parents everywhere.

This is good news for those who despise the awarding of "participation trophies" to children who play on losing pee wee football teams. Do a web search of "hating participation awards" and see what I mean.

My four adult children suffered no such undermining of their competitive spirit. They were all athletes in several sports and every award they received was earned by individual merit. Sure, one swimming ribbon reads "17th place," but I assume there was a No. 18.

Of course, losing is relative. By definition, 90 percent of all graduates are not in the top 10 percent of their class. For that matter, about 90 percent of those Olympic athletes left Rio with no medal. Winning is a rarity, losing an epidemic. Did you cheer the amazing Usain Bolt? Well, if he had stopped after his first Olympics — he failed to advance in a 200-meter heat as a 17-year-old in Athens — he'd have ended up smack in the middle of that gaggle of losers.

As the school year commences, these thoughts swirl. Having taught high school, college, and graduate students, I can state unequivocally that they are acutely aware that they are in a system that, throughout their young lives, tests them, compares them, ranks them, and rewards them based on tests, comparisons, and rankings. The "Hunger Games" trilogy has enjoyed huge popularity among them, and it's not because the premise is unfamiliar.

My daughter Cari is a highly successful professor with many accomplishments to her name. Yet I recollect with great pride a particular swim meet way back when she was 7. In the 8-and-under age group, Cari anchored one of the two 100-meter relays her team deployed. Hers was the "slow" relay. She was replaced on the "fast" quartet by a swimmer she had routinely beaten, and she was confused and upset at this.

She typically swam her 25 yards face in the water, without taking a single breath after her dive. I once asked her if she thought about breathing during those swims. "No," she said.

"What do you think about, then?"

"I think," she said, "about winning."

She knew she was contributing to a losing cause that evening as her frantically flailing teammate touched the wall, almost a full length behind. Cari propelled a strong child's body into her lane and swam the 25 yards face down. She had taken no breath in her losing cause. She had thought only about winning.

That loss explains Cari's successes better than any of her wins, which are many. Her insistence on giving her all no matter the odds is the story of her life. It requires a combination of grit, persistence, courage, and something else, something hard to describe.

I think it's a kind of outlandishness. A notion that you might just make up a full length and win the race. It's 17-year-old Bolt looking back at the empty track and saying, "See you in four years." It's everyone who has ever been pushed back, knocked down, or counted out regaining their footing, squaring their shoulders, and reentering the field of play.

It is your daughter refusing to be told she's not college material, your son rebelling against a world of cynical statisticians ever ready to tell him exactly how foolish he is to set that goal, chase that dream. Foolish even to try.

So, here's my nugget of advice as the school year begins: Whatever the quest sought by your son or daughter, listen with care for the voices that cry, "Outlandish." Let that be your signal to bend down, grab your child by the shoulders, and whisper: "Go for it. Just go for it."

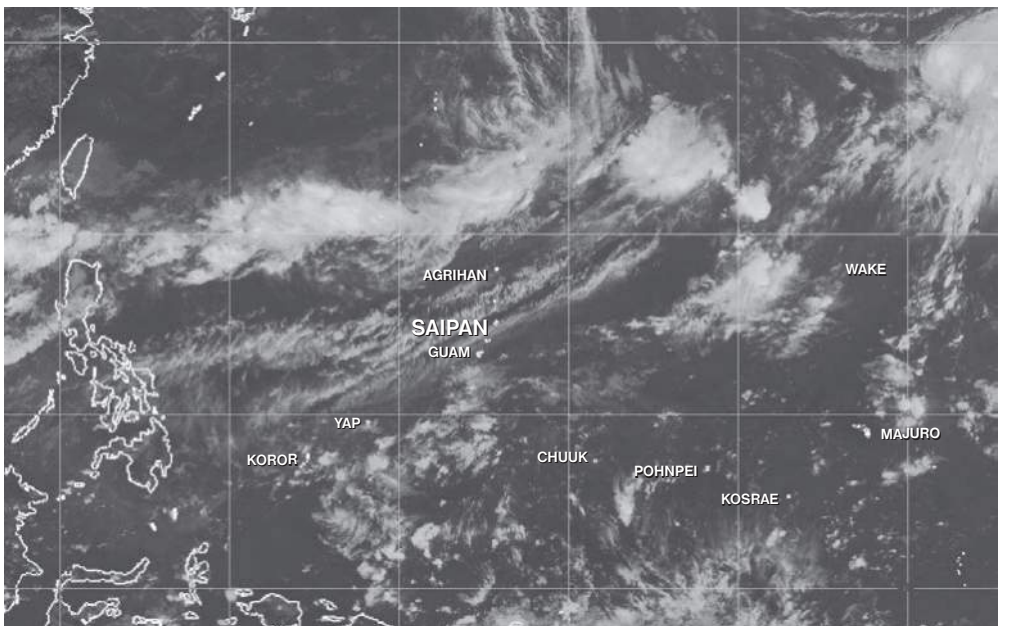
That's the kind of participation deserving of a trophy.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated afternoon thunderstorms for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:49 AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes were made to the inherited forecast. Fairly dry conditions and light winds are expected to continue across the region through the end of the week. The latest GFS shows no end to the dry pattern that the Marianas are currently experiencing. Due to the light winds expected over the next few days, island showers are likely. Winds are expected to be strong enough to deter thunderstorms, but day shift will need to monitor the situation for possible update to the forecast if they do develop.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	74 / 89 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	76 / 86 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Sunny	49 / 62 °F
Beijing	Mostly sunny	63 / 90 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	79 / 89 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 83 °F
London	Sunny	56 / 78 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	66 / 86 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	81 / 88 °F
Melbourne	Showers	54 / 62 °F
Miami	High level clouds	78 / 86 °F
New York	Partly sunny	71 / 87 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	73 / 86 °F
Paris	Mostly sunny	57 / 82 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	74 / 85 °F
Rome	Decreasing cloudiness	69 / 83 °F
Salem	Light showers	57 / 75 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	59 / 70 °F
Seoul	Heavy rain	64 / 68 °F
Tokyo	High level clouds	70 / 86 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	69 / 89 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
12:54 AM	LOW TIDE	0.9 Feet
6:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87 Feet
1:13 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.11 Feet
7:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	4:48 AM	5:40 PM
Thursday	5:41 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	7:05 PM
Saturday	7:21 AM	7:44 PM
Sunday	8:09 AM	8:23 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
OZ6063	5:15pm	8:35pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ6053	10:35am	4:05pm	4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Additional federal support to combat Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death announced

WASHINGTON—In response to a request from Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), the U.S. Department of the Interior announced $497,000 in additional federal funding to combat a tree-killing fungus that causes Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death (ROD), a disease that threatens the State's tropical forests and delicate ecosystems which could jeopardize local water supplies and Hawaiʻi's economic vitality. The funding comes on the eve of the World Conservation Congress that is convening for the first time in the United States this week in Honolulu.

The funding announcement immediately activates an Early Detection Rapid Response Team (EDRR Team) and leverages another $673,000 of in-kind Federal contributions to suppress or contain a disease that potentially could have enormous biological, economic, social and cultural repercussions for the Aloha State. The EDRR Team comprised of Federal and state agencies and a consortium of scientists will immediately begin to conduct field surveys for the disease, support critical research to pioneer adaptive treatment protocols and complete assessments of those treatments.

"Rapid ʻŌhiʻa Death is a biosecurity issue that warrants urgent action. It threatens to leave Hawaiʻi's forests, ecosystems, watersheds and commerce in a vulnerable state. Agencies must work together to generate the science needed to support decisive decisions," said U.S. Department of the Interior Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Kristen J. Sarri. "Our funding will enable this to happen. An Early Detection and Rapid Response Team will identify and rapidly respond to diseased trees while pioneering effective treatment options that will preserve the cultural significance of the ʻŌhiʻa for Native Hawaiians and enable the species to continue to provide countless ecological benefits to the State for generations to come. What we learn from this interagency approach will be applicable to addressing other invasive species of priority concern, in Hawai›i and across the United States."

"This is an ecological emergency, and it requires everyone working together to save Hawaiʻi Island's native forests. I›m pleased to see our federal partners step up to help. The additional funding will make a big difference, and it will give us the tools to understand the disease, develop better management responses, and protect our ʻŌhiʻa," said U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI).

At the invitation of Senator Schatz, Sarri is attending a summit today with scientific experts, leaders from the conservation community and government leaders to better understand the current status of ROD management and science, discuss developments, and identify the most pressing opportunities to make progress.

The fungal disease is attacking and killing the ʻŌhiʻa lehua, a tree species sacred to Native Hawaiians that covers nearly one million acres in the Hawaiian archipelago. It is a keystone species for 60% of Hawaiʻi's forests and is integral to keeping the State's delicate ecosystem in balance. The fungus causing ROD, first identified in 2014, already claimed 38,000 acres of trees on Hawaiʻi Island where nearly two-thirds of the tree species lives. Scientists and resource managers worry that ROD will continue to ravage Hawaiʻi Island's forests and spread to other islands. This could potentially decimate habitat for many rare, threatened and endangered species, as well as jeopardize water resources and native cultural practices unless immediate interventions are implemented, including strengthening early detection and rapid response actions.

» Federal assistance will pioneer adaptive treatments to contain fatal pathogen that threatens Hawaiʻi's ecosystem, water supply, and economic vitality

The disease was first confirmed by researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the University of Hawaiʻi (UH). The State of Hawaiʻi responded quickly by implementing an emergency ban on the movement of ʻŌhiʻa plant parts and soil interisland and intrastate, and requesting further assistance. Immediately, numerous agencies and organizations at the local, state and federal levels, including USFS, ARS, UH and Interior's U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formed a working group to improve detection, understand the spread and develop mitigation measures for ROD.

This multi-organizational effort facilitated sharing information, coordinated research and resource management and spurred public education and outreach efforts. As a result of these efforts, scientists were able to identify a fungus as the cause of the ʻŌhiʻa tree's mortality, as well as develop methods to detect the fungal agent, and are tracking the spread of the disease. Hawaiʻi mapped the location of diseased trees and instituted biosecurity measures to contain the spread of ROD, as well as kicked off a major public education effort to better inform landowners, resource managers and the general public about the disease.

The federal government is committed to improving its ability to prevent invasive species from impacting national assets. The President›s Priority Agenda on enhancing climate resilience called for a national framework for the early detection of and response to invasive species. In response, an interdepartmental report, Safeguarding America's Lands and Waters from Invasive Species: A National Framework for Early Detection and Rapid Response was released last February. The recommendations in that report have since been taken up as priority actions in the recently adopted 2016-2018 National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Management Plan. Implementation of the Management Plan is already in progress. Assessments are being conducted of the Federal authorities, programmatic structures and technical capacities needed to support a national program for the early detection of and rapid response to invasive species. NISC anticipates releasing the findings in early 2017. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam to suspend trusted traveler program during exercise

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) will suspend its Trusted Traveler Program from 3pm to 4pm today, and from 9am to 4pm starting tomorrow until further notice.

The suspension is in conjunction with an ongoing training exercise. NBG along with various Navy first responders is participating in the annual Commander, Naval Installations Command (CNIC) anti-terrorism exercise called Citadel Pacific 2016 (CP16), Aug. 29-Sept. 2.

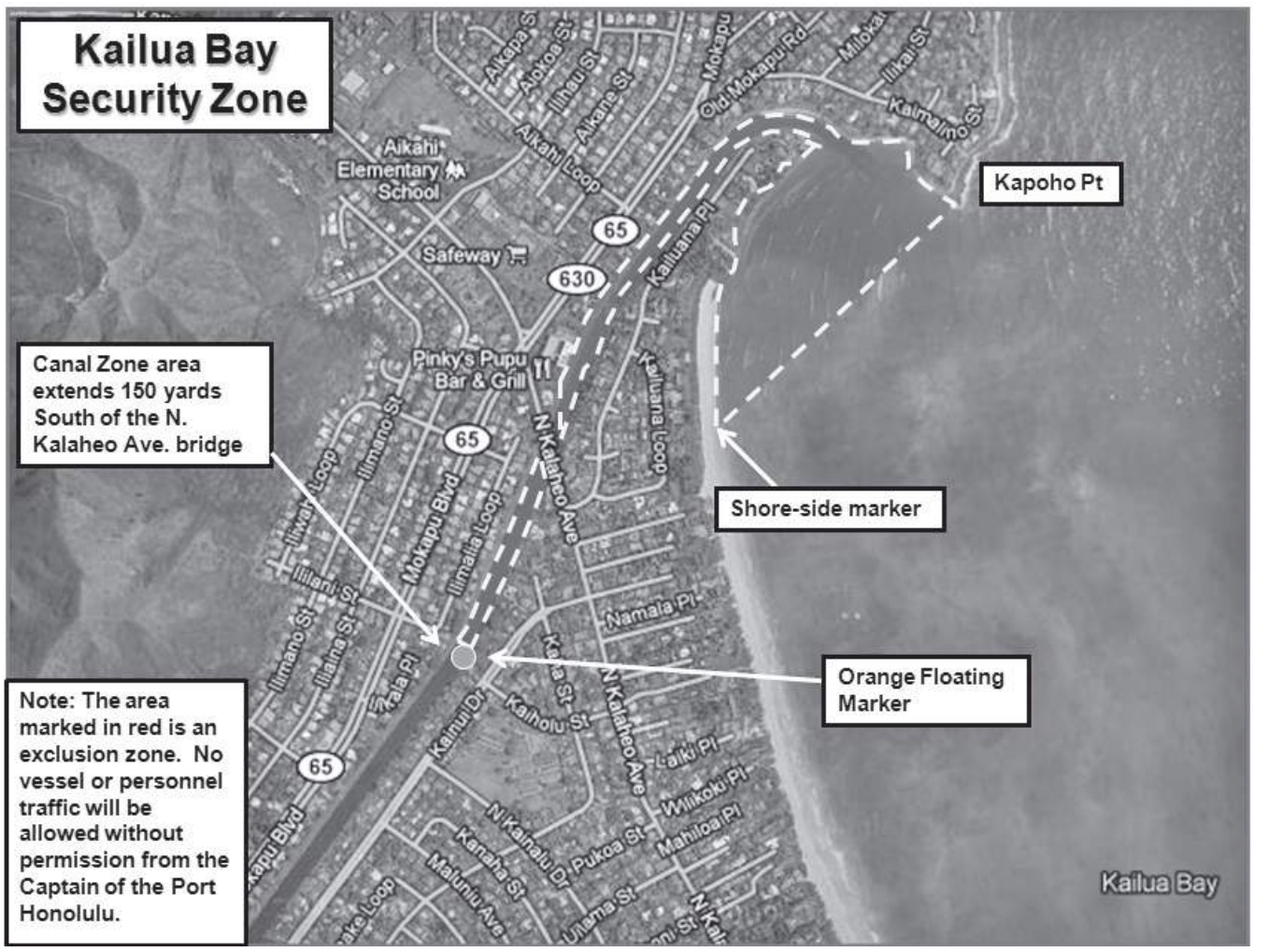
The exercise involves various training scenarios that replicate real-world events, and is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security forces to respond to threats to installations and units. CP16 is not in response to any specific threat, but is a regularly scheduled exercise.

During CP16, first responders will have to react to a crisis, which may result in elevating the Force Protection Condition (FPCON) of the base. Residents and patrons are advised that during the week the FPCON will change, requiring full ID card checks at the gates. The Trusted Traveler program – a program that authorizes DoD ID card holders to escort guests onto NBG – will be suspended. All vehicle occupants will be required to provide an approved base access credential.

There is the possibility of increased patrols and security activity on and around NBG as a result of this planned exercise. Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. As part of the exercise, the NBG Giant Voice (GV) system will be activated, and residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers will hear exercise announcements regarding Force Protection Conditions throughout the week.

For more information, contact the Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-2664/2663. ***(PR)***

Coast Guard, partners to enforce security zone in Kailua Bay on Oahu



HONOLULU—Coast Guard personnel, federal, state and local law enforcement partners will enforce a temporary security zone in waters of Kailua Bay, Oahu, Hawaii beginning Tuesday and running through Friday.

The temporary security zone is necessary to ensure the safety of a distinguished visitor.

The security zone will be in effect from 4pm Aug. 30 to 11:30pm Sept. 2, 2016, unless canceled earlier by the Captain of the Port Honolulu, Capt. Michael Long.

The Coast Guard is coordinating with the Honolulu Police Department, Marine Corps Base Hawaii and other federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies to conduct patrols of the area under the direction of the U.S. Secret Service.

The Coast Guard has established a temporary security zone on waters of Kailua Bay off the eastern coast of Oahu. The security zone includes all waters in Kailua Bay to the west of a line connecting two points beginning at the shoreline of Kapoho Point and thence westward at a bearing of 227 degrees T to the shoreline at the southeastern corner of Kailuana Loop in Kailua. In addition, the security zone includes the adjacent channel beginning at Kapoho Point to a point along the channel approximately 150 yards south o the N. Kalaheo Avenue Road bridge. An orange marker will be placed in the canal to indicate the perimeter of the security zone.

Under the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 33 CFR 165.33, the temporary law prohibits any unauthorized person or vessel from entering or remaining in this security zone. Any person entering the zone without the permission of the Coast Guard captain of the port is subject to a penalty of not more than $40,000 for each violation or a criminal penalty resulting in imprisonment of not more than 25 years and a fine of not more than $250,000. Offending vessels may also be seized and held liable for any monetary assessments. ***(PR)***

Business

FAA forecast: 600,000 commercial drones within the year

WASHINGTON (AP)—There will be 600,000 commercial drone aircraft operating in the U.S. within the year as the result of new safety rules that opened the skies to them on Monday, according to a Federal Aviation Administration estimate.

The rules governing the operation of small commercial drones were designed to protect safety without stifling innovation, FAA Administrator Michael Huerta told a news conference.

Commercial operators initially complained that the new rules would be too rigid. The agency responded by creating a system to grant exemptions to some of the rules for companies that show they can operate safely, Huerta said.

On the first day the rules were in effect the FAA had already granted 76 exemptions, most of them to companies that want to fly drones at night, Huerta said.

AP

In this May 21, 2015 file photo, Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Michael Huerta, speaks during a news conference at Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J.

"With these rules, we have created an environment in which emerging technology can be rapidly introduced while protecting the safety of the world's busiest, most complex airspace," he said.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said people are "captivated by the limitless possibilities unmanned aircraft offer." The few thousand commercial drones that had been granted waivers to operate before Monday have been used to monitor crops, inspect bridges and transmission lines, assist firefighters, film movies, and create real estate and wedding videos, among dozens of other uses.

In general, the new rules apply to drones weighing 55 pounds or less, and require commercial operators to:

- Keep the drone within sight at all times.
- Keep drones from flying over people not involved in their operation.
- Limit drone operations to the hours from a half-hour before sunrise to a half-hour after sunset.
- Limit speed to no more than 100 mph.
- Fly no higher than 400 feet.

Drone operators must also pass a test of their aeronautical knowledge administered by the FAA. More than 3,000 people had registered with the FAA to take the test as of Monday.

The Air Line Pilots Association complained that the new regulations are "missing a key component" because there's no requirement that drone operators first have an FAA pilot license to fly a plane. The FAA considered requiring drone operators to have manned aircraft pilot licenses, but relented when the drone industry complained that the time and expense involved in obtaining a license, including considerable time practicing flying a plane, would be prohibitive.

FBI warns of possible state election-system hacks

NEW YORK (AP)—The FBI is warning state officials to boost their election security in light of evidence that hackers targeted related data systems in two states.

In a confidential "flash" alert from its cyber division, first reported by Yahoo News and posted online by others, the FBI said it's investigating the pair of incidents and advised states to scan their systems for specific signs of hacking.

The FBI said Monday that it doesn't comment on specific alerts, but added that it routinely sends out advisories to private industry about signs of cyber threats that it comes across in its investigations.

The FBI didn't name the states that were targeted, but it described a "compromise" of one elections board website and "attempted intrusion activities" in another state's system. State election websites in Illinois and Arizona experienced hack-related shutdowns earlier this summer. In both cases, the parts of the websites affected involved online voter registration.

The FBI's Aug. 18 warning also came just days after Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson hosted a call with secretaries of state and other state election officials to talk about cybersecurity and election infrastructure.

In that call, Johnson said that while DHS isn't aware of any particular cyber threat against election-related computers, it's "critically important" to make sure that election systems are secure amid a rapidly changing threat landscape, according to a DHS summary of the call.

In the Arizona case, the FBI notified state officials in June about what the agency called a "critical threat" to the state's voter registration system, which shut down on June 28, according to Matt Roberts, a spokesman for the secretary of state's office.

A county worker had downloaded a piece of malware that exposed their access credential and password, which then wound up online, Roberts said.

Last chance? Obama administration proposes health law fixes

WASHINGTON (AP)—In one of its last chances to tinker with the president's signature health care law, the Obama administration Monday proposed a series of fixes and adjustments for 2018, when the White House will have a new occupant.

The changes are detailed in a highly technical draft regulation, nearly 300 pages long. Insurers and consumer advocates were trying to decipher its implications Monday evening.

The proposal would update the health insurance marketplace's premium stabilization system to reflect concerns that insurers have raised. It also proposes changes to a current five-year ban on companies returning to the health law's markets after they have left. Some big name carriers have dramatically scaled back for 2017.

For consumers, the rule includes an effort to make it easier to compare competing insurance plans, as well as a new method for calculating premiums for children, geared to avoiding large increases after a child turns age 21.

There's also language to limit abuse of "special enrollment periods" during which people can get coverage outside of the normal sign-up season.

The proposed regulation comes in advance of what's expected to be a difficult 2017 open enrollment season, with many consumers facing big premium increases and less choice.

If Republican Donald Trump becomes president, the administration's latest proposal could be rescinded before it can take effect. Trump has promised to repeal and replace Obama's health care law.

But the changes may appeal to a president Hillary Clinton, who has committed to building on the Affordable Care Act and addressing its problems.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Over 40 pct. of VW owners seek emissions cheating settlement

DETROIT (AP)—About 210,000 owners of Volkswagens with 2-liter diesel engines that cheat on emissions tests have registered to settle with the company under the terms of a June court agreement. The figure was revealed in a federal court motion by class action attorneys seeking final approval of the settlement involving 475,000 owners. It says only 235 have asked to stay out of the settlement and pursue legal action on their own. Another 110 objections to the settlement were filed. U.S. District Court Judge Charles Breyer has given the $15 billion settlement preliminary approval, with a final decision expected Oct. 18. Terms call for the German carmaker to spend up to $10 billion buying back or repairing Volkswagen and Audi 2-liter vehicles and paying owners another $5,100 to $10,000 each.

Court dismisses data speed reduction suit against AT&T

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A federal appeals court has dismissed a lawsuit by federal officials that claimed AT&T misled millions of smartphone customers with unlimited data plans who had their Internet speeds cut. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Monday that AT&T was exempt from the prohibition against unfair and deceptive practices that the Federal Trade Commission cited in its 2014 lawsuit. AT&T said it informed all unlimited data-plan customers about the practice well before it was implemented. The FTC did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment. The FTC said AT&T failed to adequately disclose that it would reduce customers' data speeds if they used more than a certain amount of data in a billing period.

Mondelez says it ended talks to buy Hershey

NEW YORK (AP)—Oreo cookie maker Mondelez says it has ended discussions to buy The Hershey Co, a combination that would have created a global powerhouse selling some of the world's best known chocolates and snacks. Hershey had said in June that it rejected a preliminary takeover bid from Mondelez International Inc. valued at roughly $22.3 billion, according to FactSet. It said at the time that the offer provided "no basis for further discussion." A representative for Hershey said the company had no comment beyond acknowledging that it had been in talks with Mondelez and that they had fallen through. A deal would have been subject to the Hershey Trust, a controlling shareholder. Hershey shares slid 11 percent in after-hours trading, to $99.25. Mondelez shares added 3.4 percent, to $44.50, in extended trading.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
18,502.99	2,180.38	5,232.33
+107.59	+11.34	+13.41
0.58%	0.52%	0.26%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3221	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7558	Philippine Peso	46.45
British Pound	0.7648	Indian Rupee	67.085	Singapore Dollar	1.3618
Canadian Dollar	1.3032	Indonesian Rupiah	13259	South Korean Won	1119.2
Chinese Yuan	6.6785	Japanese Yen	102.223	Swiss Franc	0.9811
Euro	0.8953	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0532	Taiwan Dollar	31.66
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3794	Thailand Baht	34.57

Nation

Suddenly unsure on immigration, Trump trying to clear it up

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—It's been the driving issue of Donald Trump's campaign. Build a wall along the southern border. Make Mexico pay for it. And expel everyone living in the U.S. illegally with the help of a "deportation force."

Ten weeks before the election, however, buffeted by conflicting advice from aides and advisers, Trump has seemed to be in full indecision mode.

At a Fox News town hall tall taping last week, in the face of pressing questions, he proceeded to poll the audience at length on the fate of an estimated 11 million people.

Trump is now planning a major speech Wednesday, during which he's expected to finally clarify his stance. Supporters are hoping for a strong, decisive showing. But for critics, many already disposed to vote against him, his wavering on what has been his signature issue seems like a warning that he's unable to handle a central element of any president's job—making decisions.

It also underscores how little his Republican campaign has invested in the nitty-gritty of outlining what he would do as president, especially when compared with the more detailed plans of his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

"It's just puzzling," said Lanhee Chen, who has served as a policy adviser to several Republican presidential candidates. "This is the issue on which he rose to prominence in the primary and the issue on which he continues to stake much of his campaign."

From the start, Trump has never been the kind of candidate to pore over thick policy books.

Indeed, he has mocked Clinton on the subject.

"She's got people that sit in cubicles writing policy all day. Nothing's ever going to happen. It's just a waste of paper," he told Time Magazine in June. "My voters don't care and the public doesn't care. They know you're going to do a good job once you're there."

To date, Trump's campaign has posted just seven policy proposals on his website, totaling just over 9,000 words. There are 38 on Clinton's "issues" page, ranging from efforts to cure Alzheimer's disease to Wall Street and criminal justice reform, and her campaign boasts that it has now released 65 policy fact sheets, totaling 112,735 words.

AP

A supporter of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump holds up a sign for passing cars at a "Latinos For Trump" rally at Anaheim City Hall Sunday, Aug. 28, 2016.

"I've laid out the best I could, the specific plans and ideas that I want to pursue as your president because I have this old-fashioned idea," Clinton said during a recent speech in Colorado. "When you run for president, you ought to tell people what you want to do as their president."

Trump's new campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, has said she's pushing her boss to get more specific. Yet his positions on a host of issues remain vague at best.

For example, while Trump has slammed the Common Core education standards and touts the benefits of local control of education, he has no formal, detailed plans for improving public schools. He talks about student loan debt and the increasing costs of higher education, but has yet to propose solutions. He has teased plans to make child-care more affordable, but has missed his own deadline for unveiling them.

Until recently, however, there has been no doubt about where Trump stood on illegal immigration. The wall was going up—Mexico would have to pay—and those estimated 11 million people living in the country illegally were going to have to leave.

But over the summer, Trump began suggesting in closed-door conversations with Hispanic leaders that he might be open to softening his stance. On August 20, he convened round table of Hispanic lawmakers and business leaders, and left some with the same impression. The day after, campaign manager Conway said his position on deportations was "to be determined."

Takata troubles worsen as truck explodes, kills Texas woman

DETROIT (AP)—Air bag maker Takata Corp.'s troubles worsened Monday as the company confirmed that a truck carrying its inflators and a volatile chemical exploded last week in a Texas border town, killing a woman and injuring four others.

The truck, operated by a subcontractor, crashed, caught fire and exploded Aug. 22 in the small town of Quemado, about 140 miles from San Antonio, leveling the woman's house. The company says it sent people to the site and is helping authorities investigate the crash.

Takata has a warehouse in nearby Eagle Pass, Texas, and it has an air bag inflator factory across the border in Monclova, Mexico.

The News Gram of Eagle Pass identified the victim as Lucila Robles.

Takata says it has strict procedures covering transportation of its products that meet all government regulations. The explosion left debris up to two miles from where the truck crashed, The News Gram reported.

Takata sent employees to the Quemado Public Library last week to advise residents to report any suspicious material on their property so it could be disposed of properly, the newspaper said. Authorities searched the area with metal detectors in an effort to find any inflator canisters.

Sheriff Tom Schmerber told the paper that to his knowledge, the county clean-up has finished.

Robles charred vehicle was one of the only items remaining at the scene of her home. It was later taken away.

Takata uses ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion that fills air bags in a crash. But the chemical can deteriorate when exposed to prolonged heat and humidity and burn too fast. That can blow apart a metal canister and hurl shrapnel into drivers and passengers. At least 11 people, and probably 14, have died worldwide due to Takata inflator explosions. The deaths have occurred in the United States and Malaysia, where three remain under investigation.

The Takata factory in Monclova made the faulty inflators that were blamed in several of the deaths.

Obama to juggle security, climate, rights on final Asia trip

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama faces thorny talks about the fight against the Islamic State group, climate change and human rights when he sets off this week across the Pacific for an eight-day valedictory tour through Asia.

Obama is to leave Wednesday to attend back-to-back summits in Hangzhou, China, and Vientiane, Laos. Coming five months from the end of Obama's term, the White House has planned the trip as a moment to highlight his administration's seven-year effort to expand U.S. influence Asia, including his push for massive free-trade and a landmark climate agreement with China.

White House officials said Obama will underscore the message even before leaving the U.S., heading first to Lake Tahoe for a series meetings on conservation and then on to Hawaii's remote Midway Atoll, where Obama recently expanded the Papahanaumokuakea (prounounced pah-pah-hah-NOW'-moh-koo-ah-KAY'-ah) Marine National Monument.

The White House said Monday that Obama's stop will come with announcements of new executive actions aimed at boosting clean energy production in the U.S. and mitigating the effect of climate change such as wildfires and drought.

Obama will keep up the drumbeat in China, where he is attending a meeting of the Group of 20 industrial and emerging-market economies. Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to offer an update on the nation's progress toward ratifying the Paris agreement. White House officials have said they hope the historic climate change pact could enter into force by the end of the year.

But Obama's climate change agenda will only be part of his busy agenda. Obama will sit down Sunday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the first meeting since a failed summer coup added new tensions to an already complex relationship.

Obama and Erdogan are slated to discuss the recent clashes between Turkish troops and Kurdish forces in northern Syria. The U.S. has criticized Turkey, a NATO ally, for the assault, saying the conflict distracts from the fight against the Islamic State group. Erdogan has said he plans to continue the operations until the Kurdish forces no longer pose a security threat to Ankara.

Slain New Mexico girl's relatives mystified over mom's role

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Michelle Martens kept her new relationship with a man convicted of child endangerment a secret from friends and family for weeks—as she helped plan her daughter's 10th birthday party, sent the girl off daily to the school bus and held down her job at a local grocery store.

Now relatives and friends of the 35-year-old single mother are trying to figure out why they never knew about her involvement with the boyfriend and her invitation for his cousin who is a convicted felon to live in her apartment.

Court records show all three face charges in the death of Victoria Martens, who was expected to celebrate her 10th birthday the day her body was found last week after police say she was drugged, raped and killed in the apartment as her mother watched.

"Whatever demons she had we don't know because she didn't share them with us," said Laura Bobbs, who lived in Martens' apartment complex for five years and now serves as a spokeswoman for Victoria's relatives. "I should have been the one to see all this and I didn't."

An officer responding to a report of a pre-dawn Aug. 24 disturbance at the apartment found Victoria's remains in a bathtub, partially wrapped in a blanket that had been set on fire.

Bobbs, a local minister who lived until recently in an apartment below Martens, said she and the girl's grandmother spoke to Martens almost daily. She recalled the mother was planning to order a cake for her daughter days before Victoria died.

The girl's grandparents, who moved from New York to New Mexico to be closer to their grandchildren, were also in on the party planning, Bobbs said.

All are mystified over how Martens got involved with Fabian Gonzales and his cousin Jessica Kelley, Bobbs said. The three face charges of child abuse resulting in death, kidnapping and tampering with evidence and are jailed for lack of $1 million bail each.

At a news conference Monday held at Victoria's favorite park, Bobbs thanked Albuquerque residents on behalf of the girl's family for an outpouring of support and prayers.

Asia

N. Korea denounces UN condemnation, warns US of action

AP
In this Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016, fie photo, TV screens show file footage of a North Korea's ballistic missile that North Korea claimed to have launched from underwater at the Yongsan Electronic store in Seoul, South Korea.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—North Korea has denounced a U.N. Security Council statement condemning its four latest ballistic missile launches, calling it "a hostile act" perpetrated by the United States and warning that it could precipitate America's "self-destruction."

A Foreign Ministry statement sent to U.N. correspondents on Monday also warned that North Korea "has substantial means capable of reducing aggression troops in the U.S. mainland and the operational theater in the Pacific to ashes in a moment."

A press statement approved Friday night by all 15 Security Council members, including North Korea's ally China, called the four launches in July and August "grave violations" of a ban on all ballistic missile activity.

The council expressed "serious concern" that North Korea had carried out the launches after six ballistic missile firings between April and June, "in flagrant disregard" of the council's repeated demands to halt all missile launches and nuclear tests which violate U.N. resolutions.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused the United States of instigating the statement and "abusing" the Security Council, to deter the country's "legitimate right to self-defense."

The ministry called the council statement "a reckless provocation harassing peace and stability on the Korean peninsula."

It accused the Security Council of deliberately disregarding a complaint sent by the North Korean government about U.S.-South Korean military exercises currently underway. North Korea has threatened retaliation for these exercises, which it views as a rehearsal for invasion by the U.S. and other adversaries.

"This is an illegal action taken by the world body to side with the U.S. in the acute standoff between the DPRK and the U.S. without an iota of impartiality," the ministry said, using the initials of the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea singled out the council's condemnation of the latest submarine launch of a ballistic missile on Aug. 24, days after the U.S. and South Korea began their annual military exercises.

North Korea usually responds to the annual South Korea-U.S. military drills with weapons tests and fiery war-like rhetoric

South Korean officials said the missile flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles), the longest distance achieved by the North for such a weapon. That means all of South Korea, and possibly parts of Japan, are within its striking distance.

The Foreign Ministry recalled its warning to the U.S. of military action if it criticized the submarine missile launch and "enraged people of the DPRK."

"Now that the U.S. posed threats to the dignity and the right to existence of the DPRK defying its serious warning, it will continue to take a series of eventful action steps as a full-fledged military power," the statement said.

Acquiring the ability to launch missiles from submarines would be an alarming development because missiles fired from submerged vessels are harder to detect in advance. U.S. Strategic Command said last week that the latest North Korean missile launch did not pose a threat to North America but that the U.S. military "remains vigilant in the face of North Korean provocations."

Kerry urges Bangladesh to step up efforts against terrorism

NEW DELHI (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry called Monday for Bangladesh to step up efforts to fight extremist violence, come to terms with links between local and international militants and protect and promote human rights.

Kerry made his first trip to Bangladesh as America's top diplomat amid increasing concern about terrorism in the South Asian nation after of a series of militant attacks.

On a brief stop in Dhaka before a two-day visit to New Delhi, Kerry met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdul Hassam Mahmood Ali, opposition officials and students. In each session, he made the point that Bangladesh must deal with the roots of the attacks, the most recent of which killed 20 people, including 17 foreigners, at a popular restaurant last month in the capital.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for that attack, but Bangladeshi authorities maintain that IS has no presence in the country and that a banned local group, Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, or JMB, was behind it. Some have accused Bangladesh of turning a blind eye to the possibility of outsiders radicalizing elements of the Muslim-majority nation.

Kerry said he does not believe "the government of Bangladesh has its head in the sand." But he also made the point that there are links between the Islamic State and extremists around the world, including in Bangladesh.

"There is evidence that ISIL in Iraq and Syria has contacts with about eight different entities around the world, and one of them is in South Asia," Kerry told reporters in a news conference in Dhaka. "And they are connected to some degree with some of the operatives here, and we made that very clear in our conversation."

Kerry spoke pointedly of the transnational threat posed by terrorism. The July 1 attack on Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery "was an outrage clearly designed to divide Bangladesh, designed to try to cut off this welcoming society from the outside world," he said.

"These heinous acts of violence—and too many others worldwide—are a stark, painful reminder that those who aid terrorist groups or perpetrate these acts have no respect for national boundaries, no concern for the rights of others, no regard for the rule of law," he said. Kerry said a longstanding counterterrorism dialogue has intensified in recent months and work with the Bangladeshi police and military will continue with an eye toward further cooperation.

Duterte to raise sea feud ruling against Chinese wishes

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told China's ambassador Monday that he will not immediately press Beijing to comply with an international tribunal's ruling that invalidated Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea, but would do so in the future.

Duterte made the comments in a speech marking Philippine heroes' day that was attended by Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua and other diplomats. Zhao was apparently surprised by the remarks and just smiled in response.

China avoids discussion of its territorial disputes in the presence of other governments.

Duterte said pressing China to comply now might result in the suspension of talks between the two countries, which would not be good.

"I will not use the arbitral judgment now, but I would one day sit in front of your representative or you and then I will lay bare my position," Duterte said, addressing his remarks to Zhao.

Duterte has said he will also not raise the arbitration decision at an annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Laos next week, although he might discuss the issue if other leaders bring it up.

The tribunal ruled in July that China's extensive territorial claims, which overlap those of the Philippines and four other governments, are invalid under a 1982 U.N. treaty, in a major setback for Beijing. China has ignored the decision and refused to hold any talks with the Philippines based on the ruling.

Duterte added in jest that if the Philippines had as many ships as Beijing, he might consider a more forceful action.

Philippine acquiescence to talks that would not directly take up the arbitration decision would allow Duterte's government to discuss pressing issues such as asking China to allow Filipino fishermen to regain access to disputed Scarborough Shoal, which Beijing effectively seized in 2012. Chinese coast guard ships have been blocking Filipino fishermen from the rich fishing area.

"I hope that you treat us as your brothers, not your enemies, and take note of the plight of our citizens," Duterte told Zhao.

ASIAN BRIEFS

15 PH troops killed in clash with Abu Sayyaf rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Abu Sayyaf extremists killed 15 Philippine army soldiers in fierce fighting Monday in the country's restive south, dealing the government its largest single-day combat loss under President Rodrigo Duterte, who ordered the militants to be crushed for their brutality. Military officials said five other soldiers were wounded in the nearly two-hour gunbattle that also killed at least two militants in Sulu province's mountainous Patikul town, where the Abu Sayyaf have detained many of their kidnap victims. The estimated 70 militants were led by Abu Sayyaf commander Radulan Sahiron, a one-armed fighter long wanted by Philippine and U.S. authorities for his role in bombings, kidnappings and other acts, according to regional military commander Maj. Filemon Tan and police officials.

Watchdog calls out India for failing to protect journalists

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is failing to help and protect journalists who are facing violent threats or attacks for their work, an international watchdog agency said Monday, noting a pattern of resistance in investigating crimes targeting reporters. The Committee to Protect Journalists counted 27 journalists killed for their work since 1992, and noted that it was still investigating more than two dozen cases to determine whether those journalists' deaths were also work-related. Most at risk are small-town journalists investigating corruption, rather than journalists in big cities like New Delhi or Mumbai. The New York-based watchdog said in a report released Monday that it could find only one case in 10 years in India in which a suspect was prosecuted and convicted for killing a journalist, but that the suspect was later released on appeal.

World

Human Rights Watch: Palestinians abuse media, activists

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian authorities are silencing dissent by cracking down on free speech and abusing local journalists and activists critical of their policies, a leading international human rights group said Tuesday.

Human Rights Watch said both the Western-backed Palestinian Authority led by President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank and its rival, the ruling Islamic militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip, are "arresting, abusing, and criminally charging journalists and activists who express peaceful criticism of the authorities."

In 2007, Hamas ousted Abbas' Fatah forces from Gaza in bloody street battles, leaving the Palestinians divided between two governments. Attempts at reconciliation have repeatedly failed, and both Hamas and the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority have periodically launched crackdowns against their rivals in efforts to consolidate power.

"The Palestinian governments in both Gaza and the West Bank are arresting and even physically abusing activists and journalists who express criticism on important public issues," said Sari Bashi, the Israel and Palestine country director at Human Rights Watch.

HRW said that in the West Bank, Palestinian forces arrested activists and musicians who "ridiculed Palestinian security forces" and "accused the government of corruption" in statements posted on Facebook or stated in graffiti and rap songs.

In Gaza, the rights group said an activist who criticized Hamas for "failing to protect a man with a mental disability" was detained and intimidated by the group, as was a journalist who "posted a photograph of a woman looking for food in a garbage bin."

AP

In this Saturday, Aug. 13, 2005 file photo, media covers Hamas press conference in Gaza City.

The New York-based rights group said that in the incidents of abuse, "activists and journalists said that security officers beat or kicked them, deprived them of sleep and proper food, hosed them with cold and then hot water, and made them maintain uncomfortable positions for long hours."

Tarik Abu Zaid, a journalist with the Hamas-allied al-Aqsa TV station, said he has been arrested by the Palestinian Authority three times, most recently in March, and held for a month each time.

"For the first week, the investigation was friendly," he said. "But by the end of the first week, they started using several ways of physical and psychological torture to make me confess to charges that I didn't do." He said he was forced to stand and prevented from sleeping for three days and beaten in the genitals by an interrogator.

Jamal Dajani, spokesman for the West Bank government, said any such incidents were "isolated" and did not reflect official government policy. He said in some cases, journalists were arrested under defamation laws.

"These incidents have nothing to do with freedom of the press," he said. "The government is working on creating a better environment for press freedom. We believe in and support the freedom of speech and the right for journalists to operate freely in Palestine."

In Gaza, Hamas officials declined comment.

Brazil's president proclaims innocence at impeachment trial

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—In a 14-hour session that was less electric than expected, Brazil's suspended president proclaimed her innocence at her impeachment trial Monday, branding her vice president a "usurper," calling the drive to oust her a "coup" and warning senators that history will judge them harshly if they oust a democratically elected leader on false charges.

Dilma Rousseff's much anticipated appearance before senators who will decide as early as Tuesday whether to permanently remove her from office was characterized by the same defiance she has shown throughout an impeachment process that has divided Latin America's most populous nation. But it was also more civil than the three previous impeachment trial sessions, when lawmakers from both sides got into heated exchanges.

"I know I will be judged, but my conscience is clear. I did not commit a crime," Rousseff told senators who listened intently, in contrast to the chamber's usual raucousness.

She also pleaded with all 81 senators to keep her on the job in her closing remarks. "I need all of you, regardless of political parties," she said. The response of the lawmakers was tepid.

In the middle of her second term, the left-leaning leader has been accused of breaking fiscal rules in 2015 to hide problems in the federal budget. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Rousseff reminded those in attendance that she was re-elected in 2014 with more than 54 million votes, asserting that at every moment since she has followed the constitution and sought to do what was best for Brazil.

Brazil's first female president is a former guerrilla fighter who was jailed and tortured during the country's dictatorship, and Rousseff drew a connection between her past and the situation today.

"I can't help but taste the bitterness of injustice," she said.

During her 30-minute opening speech, Rousseff argued that in early 2015 opposition lawmakers began creating a climate of instability by refusing to negotiate and throwing what she called "fiscal bombs" in the face of the government's declining revenues as the once booming economy continued its slump.

She said the impeachment process had exacerbated the recession in Latin America's largest economy, and she blamed the opposition, which has argued that she has to be removed for the financial climate to improve.

Rousseff blasted interim President Michel Temer as a "usurper." Her vice president turned arch-enemy, Temer took over when the Senate voted in May to impeach and suspend Rousseff for up to 180 days while a trial was prepared. He will serve out Rousseff's term until December 2018 if she is removed, but still faces risks of having his mandate cancelled at Brazil's top electoral court.

Quake survivors erupt in anger at funeral plan; govt relents

ROME (AP)—Italian quake survivors rebelled in anger Monday over the government's plan to hold a state funeral for their loved ones in an airport hangar in a distant town, where scores of bodies are being kept in refrigerated trucks, and let them watch it on screens from near their emergency tent camp.

One relative of 7-year-old twins who perished in central Italy's Aug. 24 quake was so upset by the announcement he could barely speak, holding up seven fingers when explaining how old the children were. The mayor of Amatrice, the hardest-hit of the three medieval towns flattened by the quake, was also upset.

"Give us back our dead!" yelled one man in the crowd of several dozen survivors.

Sensing a public relations disaster, Italian Premier Matteo Renzi's government quickly reversed course, and he said the latest state funeral will take place Tuesday in the devastated Apennines hill town.

So far, 231 of the quake's 292 victims have been found in Amatrice, with the death toll rising by two Monday afternoon when two bodies were extracted from rubble.

The bodies of some 10 people, including that of the town's baker, are believed to be still buried under the rubble of hundreds of buildings that collapsed, many reduced to piles of stones. Hundreds of people were injured.

Last week, a stream of ambulances brought more than 100 victims in body bags from Amatrice and another hard-hit town, Accumoli, to the airport at Rieti, 65 kilometers (40 miles) away. There they were being kept in refrigerated big-rig trucks parked in the hangar. Some relatives who live elsewhere in Italy had sent hearses with coffins to claim their loved one's body for funerals elsewhere.

But nearly 80 bodies that families hoped would be buried near Amatrice or Accumoli remained at the hangar, and now, after the government relented, the corpses were going to be transferred back to the town.

Amatrice Mayor Sergio Pirozzi told a crowd that Renzi had just spoken with him by phone. "He granted the people's appeal," the mayor said.

Later, Renzi told state TV: "There were so many polemics, but it's absolutely right the people be able to weep for their dear ones in their place, their village."

Renzi's office later announced that the premier had declared Tuesday as a day of national mourning. The funeral will be held at the edge of Amatrice's obliterated medieval town center, on the grounds of a Catholic retreat home for elderly and others seeking a quiet respite in the mountains.

Mexico's top police chief out after execution allegations

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's president dismissed the chief of the federal police force Monday, less than two weeks after the country's human rights commission released a scathing report alleging federal police "executed arbitrarily" at least 22 suspected drug cartel members during a raid on a ranch.

Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong said President Enrique Pena Nieto decided to remove Enrique Galindo to allow for a transparent investigation.

"In light of the recent events and on instructions of the president, Police Commissioner Enrique Galindo has been removed from his position," Osorio Chong said. "That is with the objective of facilitating that the corresponding authorities carry out an agile and transparent investigation in full view of citizens."

Earlier this month, Mexico's National Human Rights Commission announced that its investigation found that at least 22 people were killed without justification by police during the operation at a ranch in the western state of Michoacan on May 22, 2015. It described them as being "executed arbitrarily."

The report further alleged that police planted guns on some suspects and moved some bodies to bolster the official version that all the deaths occurred during a gunbattle. In all, 42 civilians and one federal police officer were killed.

Galindo and National Security Commissioner Renato Sales had said they accepted the commission's recommendations, but denied that police executed anyone. They said the federal officers used necessary force against a heavily armed band of criminals.

After the incident, federal police had said they encountered a truck and took gunfire from its passengers before being led in a chase to the ranch in Tanhuato, near the border with Jalisco state.

The commission's report said the government did not produce evidence supporting that account and it said witness statements suggested 41 federal police officers had sneaked onto the ranch as early as 6 a.m. Officers started their assault at least an hour earlier than they maintained in reporting on the incident, the commission said.

According to the commission's report, after the federal police officer was shot, police called for backup. Fifty-four more officers arrived along with a helicopter.

"I think his position was unsustainable after the CNDH report on Tanhuato," Mexico City-based security analyst Alejandro Hope said of Galindo. "It was just a matter of time. There were too many controversies surrounding commissioner Galindo."

Focus

AP

In this April 3, 2015, file photo, an Iraqi man prays for his slain relative at the site of a mass grave believed to contain the bodies of Iraqi soldiers killed by Islamic State group militants when they overran Camp Speicher military base in Tikrit, Iraq, in June 2014.

IS buried thousands in 72 mass graves, AP finds

By LORI HINNANT and DESMOND BUTLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARDAN, Iraq (AP)—Surrounded by smoke and flames, the sound of gunshots echoing around him, the young man crouched in the creek for hours, listening to the men in his family die.

On the other side of the mountain, another survivor peered through binoculars as the handcuffed men of neighboring villages were shot and then buried by a waiting bulldozer. For six days he watched as the extremists filled one grave after another with his friends and relatives.

Between them, the two scenes of horror on Sinjar mountain contain six burial sites and the bodies of more than 100 people, just a small fraction of the mass graves Islamic State extremists have scattered across Iraq and Syria.

In exclusive interviews, photos and research, The Associated Press has documented and mapped 72 of the mass graves, the most comprehensive survey so far, with many more expected to be uncovered as the Islamic State group's territory shrinks. In Syria, AP has obtained locations for 17 mass graves, including one with the bodies of hundreds of members of a single tribe all but exterminated when IS extremists took over their region. For at least 16 of the Iraqi graves, most in territory too dangerous to excavate, officials do not even guess the number of dead. In others, the estimates are based on memories of traumatized survivors, Islamic State propaganda and what can be gleaned from a cursory look at the earth. Still, even the known victims buried are staggering - from 5,200 to more than 15,000.

Sinjar mountain is dotted with mass graves, some in territory clawed back from IS after the group's onslaught against the Yazidi minority in August 2014; others in the deadly no man's land that has yet to be secured.

The bodies of Talal Murat's father, uncles and cousins lie beneath the rubble of the family farm, awaiting a time when it is safe for surviving relatives to return to the place where the men were gunned down. On Sinjar's other flank, Rasho Qassim drives daily past the graves holding the bodies of his two sons. The road is in territory long since seized back, but the five sites are untouched, roped off and awaiting the money or the political will for excavation, as the evidence they contain is scoured away by the wind and baked by the sun.

"We want to take them out of here. There are only bones left. But they said 'No, they have to stay there, a committee will come and exhume them later,'" said Qassim, standing at the edge of the flimsy fence surrounding one site, where his two sons are buried. "It has been two years but nobody has come."

IS made no attempt to hide its atrocities. In fact it boasted of them. But proving what United Nations officials and others have described as an ongoing genocide—and prosecuting those behind it—will be complicated as the graves deteriorate.

"We see clear evidence of the intent to destroy the Yazidi people," said Naomi Kikoler, who recently visited the region for the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. "There's been virtually no effort to systematically document the crimes perpetrated, to preserve the evidence, and to ensure that mass graves are identified and protected."

Then there are the graves still out of reach. The Islamic State group's atrocities extend well outside the Yazidi region in northern Iraq.

Satellites offer the clearest look at massacres such as the one at Badoush Prison in June 2014 that left 600 male inmates dead. A patch of scraped earth and tire tracks show the likely killing site, according to exclusive photos obtained by the imagery intelligence firm AllSource Analysis.

Of the 72 mass graves documented by AP, the smallest contains three bodies; the largest is believed to hold thousands, but no one knows for sure.

ALL THEY COULD DO WAS WATCH THE SLAUGHTER

On the northern flank of Sinjar mountain, five grave sites ring a desert crossroads. It is here that the young men of Hardan village are buried, under thistles and piles of cracked earth. They were killed in the bloody IS offensive of August 2014.

Through his binoculars, Arkan Qassem watched it all. His village, Gurmiz, is just up the slope from Hardan, giving a clear view over the plain below. When the jihadis swept over the area, everyone in Gurmiz fled up the mountaintop for refuge. Then Arkan and nine other men returned to their village with light weapons to try to defend their homes.

Instead, all they could do was watch the slaughter below. Arkan witnessed the militants set up checkpoints, preventing residents from leaving. Women and children were taken away.

Then the killings began. The first night, Arkan saw the militants line up a group of handcuffed men in the headlights of a bulldozer at an intersection, less than a kilometer (half mile) down the slope from Gurmiz. They gunned the men down, then the bulldozer plowed the earth over their bodies.

Over six days, Arkan and his comrades watched helplessly as the fighters brought out three more groups of men—several dozen each, usually with hands bound—to the crossroads and killed them. He didn't always see what they did with the bodies. One time, he saw them lighting a bonfire, but he couldn't see why.

Finally, the jihadis brought in artillery and prepared to make an assault on Gurmiz. Arkan and his comrades fled up the mountain to where their families had taken refuge.

Now, since IS fighters were driven out of the area, the 32-year-old has returned to his home. But he's haunted by the site. As documented by the aid group Yazda, which has mapped the Sinjar sites, the graves are in a rough pentagon flanking the crossroads, largely unprotected. Around one of them is a mesh fence and a wind-battered sign. As Arkan spoke at the site, a shepherd herded his flock nearby.

"I have lots of people I know there. Mostly friends and neighbors," he said. "It's very difficult to look at them every day."

"THIS BODY IS WEARING MY FATHER'S CLOTHES"

As IS fighters swarmed into the Sinjar area in early August 2014, Talal fled his town along with his father, mother, four sisters and younger brother. They and dozens of other men, women and children from his extended clan converged on an uncle's farm outside the town of Tel Azer. They prayed it was remote enough to escape the killings that were already engulfing so many Yazidis.

It wasn't.

The jihadis fired at the house from a distance. Then they rolled up in their vehicles and shot one man in the head as they stood in the yard. They surrounded the farmhouse, ordered everyone outside and demanded the impossible: Convert.

The Yazidi faith, one of the region's oldest, has elements of Christianity and Islam but is distinct. Yazidis worship the Peacock Angel, fallen and forgiven by God under their tradition, and their shrines feature carved images of the birds and references to the sun. Muslim extremists condemned them as "devil worshippers" and over the centuries have subjected them to multiple massacres - 72, by the Yazidis' count.

In its own propaganda, the Islamic State group made clear its intention to wipe out the Yazidi community. In an issue of its online English-language magazine Dabiq, it scolded Muslims for allowing the Yazidis to continue existing, calling their ancient religion a form of paganism. It quoted Quranic verses to justify killing the Yazidis unless they become Muslim.

Thwarted in their halfhearted attempt at conversions, the fighters separated about 35 teenage girls and young women from the rest, crammed them into a few cars and drove away. The militants herded the older women and young children into the farmhouse and locked the door.

Then they lined the men and teenaged boys against the wall of the stables - around 40 in all, including Talal.

There were too many of them, too bunched up, to efficiently mow down, so the fighters then ordered them to lie on the ground in a row, Talal said. That was when his uncle told him to make a run for it. Talal bolted into his uncle's hayfield, as did several other men. The militants fired at them, and the bullets ignited the hay, dry from the summer sun. The fire covered Talal's escape, and he took shelter in a nearby creek.

There he hid, listening as the gunmen shot his family to death. He eventually fled toward the mountain, joined by three others who had survived the massacre. Four out of 40.

Back at the farm, the gunmen eventually left and the women and children emerged, looking around with growing horror.

Nouri Murat, Talal's mother, found her husband. His body was untouched, but his head was shattered. Her daughters, she said, were confused at first. "This is strange, this body is wearing my father's clothes," one of them said. As Nouri frantically searched around the property for any surviving menfolk, her 9-year-old daughter Rukhan lay down beside her father's corpse.

Finally, other women persuaded the family to head to the mountain before the Islamic State fighters returned.

As they began the long walk north, Nouri noticed Rukhan's bloody fist. Fearing her

See IS on Page 19

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Meet nice wild bergamot and not-nice kudzu

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

If you are curious about how to identify the native perennial wild bergamot, just look for the plant with lavender flowers that look like ragged pompons, says native plant expert Helen Hamilton.

You will also see lots of nectar-seeking insects — butterflies, hummingbirds and clearwing moths — around it.

"The flowers are open continuously throughout the day, providing excellent forage for bumblebees, too" says Hamilton, past president of the John Clayton Chapter, Virginia Native Plant Society, and retired biology teacher living in Williamsburg.

Wild bergamot, or Monarda fistulosa, is easy to grow in the home garden. Reaching two to three feet tall, it thrives in a wide range of soils — acid to lime, rich to poor and sand to clay, according to Hamilton. The plant prefers full sun, but grows in part shade and tolerates drought.

"Wild bergamot has deep, branched roots and shallow rhizomes that send up multiple leafy stems in tight clusters, giving the plant a bushy appearance. Like all mints, the stems are square and dark green, and lance-shaped leaves occur in pairs on the stems."

Wild bergamot begins flowering in June and continues through September, giving your garden a long bloom time. It's a stunning addition to a perennial border, especially when the masses of flowers are used as a background for black-eyed susan, butterfly milkweed and wild quinine. The plant is native to counties across Virginia, mostly in the mountain region, but does well in Hampton Roads.

Kudzu vine. TNS

Wild bergamot leaves have an oregano-mint flavor, and deer usually do not browse on them and its relatives in the mint family, according to Hamilton.

A close relative Beebalm (Monarda didyma) produces stunning true red flowers, but in Virginia it is native only to counties in the mountain region. It can be grown here, but requires shade and a moist environment. Spotted beebalm (M. punctata) is another relative, native to the coastal and central counties of Virginia.

These plants are susceptible to powdery mildew, according to Hamilton. Research centers are conducting trials on hybrids and cultivars of all three species, hoping to come up with disease-resistant plants. Learn more about Mt. Cuba's Monarda evaluation and research at www.mtcubacenter.org/plant-trials/category/monarda-evaluation-2014-2016.

NOT-NICE KUDZU

Kudzu, or Pueraria montana var. lobate, is a familiar vine, growing over anything in its path — other plants, and even buildings and road signs.

"With stems growing one foot per day, the weight of vegetation it produces breaks branches, uproots shrubs and kills trees," says Hamilton.

"The large leaves block sunlight as the vine climbs tall trees, which eventually topple."

At the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, other countries were invited to set up exhibits to help celebrate the 100th birthday of the United States, Hamilton explains. At the Japanese exhibit, visitors were charmed by the large leaves and sweet-smelling flowers of kudzu, and American gardeners were soon using the plant for ornamental purposes.

"Nursery operators in Florida found that animals would eat the plant, and started its promotion for forage in the 1920s," she says.

"Southern farmers were encouraged to plant kudzu for control of erosion from the mid-1930s to mid-1950s. Finally, in 1953, it was recognized as a pest species and removed from the USDA's list of permissible cover plants. Now in Florida it is listed as Category I invasive species."

As a member of the legume family, the roots of kudzu hold nitrogen-fixing bacteria that enrich soil. However, the massive root system produces runners that can root at the nodes, and it is difficult to remove completely all parts of the roots to ensure eradication of the vine. Kudzu also spreads by seeds, but it is the massive tap root, seven inches or more in diameter and more than 100 feet long that can produce 30 or more vines from a single root crown. Mowing during the growing season, repeated applications of herbicides, digging out the roots — these control methods have moderate success in small infestations. Animals can help — a small herd of goats or sheep can reduce a large amount of kudzu every day.

"June through September, clusters of lavender flowers that smell like grapes attract bees that help pollinate the plant," Hamilton says.

"From fall through early winter fruits follow the flowers as dry flattened pods, green first, and then tan with stiff golden-brown hairs."

"The Vine That Ate the South" can be eaten, she says — most of the plant is edible, except the seeds and seed pods. A jelly and wine can be made from the flowers, a tea from the young, tender leaves and a fine flour from its dried, pounded roots.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING ONE

Cherry-Tomato Salad with Chives and Lemon

This refreshing salad doesn't hold well once combined; add tomatoes to lemon slices and dressing just before serving.

2 medium lemons
2 pints red cherry or grape tomatoes, each cut in half
1 pint yellow cherry tomatoes, each cut in half
1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons snipped fresh chives
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper

1. With knife, cut peel and white pith from lemons; discard. Cut each lemon crosswise into thin slices; remove seeds if necessary.

2. In medium bowl, toss lemon slices, tomatoes and remaining ingredients. Makes 8 servings.

* Each serving: About 65 calories, 1g protein, 9g carbohydrate, 4g total fat (1g saturated), 2g fiber, 210mg sodium.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our Web site at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes.

IS

From Page 18

daughter was wounded, she pried open the girl's clenched fingers. Inside were a handful of her father's teeth.

"THEY DON'T EVEN TRY TO HIDE THEIR CRIMES"

Nearly every area freed from IS control has unmasked new mass graves, like one found by the sports stadium in the Iraqi city of Ramadi. Many of the graves themselves are easy enough to find, most covered with just a thin coating of earth.

"They don't even try to hide their crimes," said Sirwan Jalal, the director of Iraqi Kurdistan's agency in charge of mass graves. "They are beheading them, shooting them, running them over in cars, all kinds of killing techniques, and they don't even try to hide it."

No one outside IS has seen the Iraqi ravine where hundreds of Shiite prison inmates were killed point blank and then torched. Satellite images of scraped dirt along the river point to its location, according to Steve Wood of AllSource. His analysts triangulated survivors' accounts and began to systematically search the desert according to their descriptions of that day, June 10, 2014.

The inmates were separated out by religion, and Shiites were loaded onto trucks, driven for a few kilometers (miles) and forced to line up and count off, according to accounts by 15 survivors gathered by Human Rights Watch. Then they knelt along the edge of the crescent-shaped ravine, according to a report cited by AllSource.

"I was number 43. I heard them say '615,' and then one ISIS guy said, 'We're going to eat well tonight.' A man behind us asked, 'Are you ready?' Another person answered 'Yes,' and began shooting at us with a machine-gun. Then they all started to shoot us from behind, going down the row," according to the Human Rights Watch account of a survivor identified only as A.S.

The men survived by pretending to be dead.

Using their accounts and others, AllSource examined an image from July 17, 2014, that appeared to show the location as described, between a main road and the railway outside Mosul. The bodies are believed to be packed tightly together, side by side in a space approximately the length of two football fields end to end, in what the AllSource analysis described as a "sardine trench." Tire tracks lead to and from the site.

"There's actually earth that has been pushed over and actually moved to cover parts of the ravine. As we look across the entire ravine we only see that in this one location," said Wood. "Ultimately there are many, many more sites across Iraq and Syria that have yet to be either forensically exhumed or be able to be detailed and there's quite a bit more research that needs to take place."

The key, Wood said, is having photos to indicate a grave's location taken soon after its creation.

Justice has been done in at least one IS mass killing - that of about 1,700 Iraqi soldiers who were forced to lie face-down in a ditch and then machine-gunned at Camp Speicher. On Aug. 21, 36 men convicted in those killings were hanged at Iraq's Nasiriyah prison.

But justice is likely to be elusive in areas still firmly under IS control, even though the extremists have filmed themselves committing the atrocities. That's the case for a deep natural sinkhole outside Mosul that is now a pit of corpses. In Syria's Raqqa province, thousands of bodies are believed to have been thrown into the giant al-Houta crevasse.

Conditions in much of Syria remain a mystery. Activists believe there are hundreds of mass graves in IS-controlled areas that can only be explored when fighting stops. By that time, they fear any effort to document the massacres, exhume and identify the remains will become infinitely more complicated.

Working behind IS lines, local residents have informally documented some mass graves, even partially digging some up. Some of the worst have been found in the eastern province of Deir el-Zour. There, 400 members of the Shueitat tribe were found in one grave, just some of the up to 1,000 members of the tribe believed to have been massacred by IS when the militants took over the area, said Ziad Awad, the editor of an online publication on Deir el-Zour called The Eye of the City who is trying to document the graves.

In Raqqa province, the bodies of 160 Syrian soldiers, killed when IS overran their base, were found in seven large pits.

So far, at least 17 mass graves are known, though largely unreachable, in a list put together from AP interviews with activists from Syrian provinces still under IS rule as well as fighters and residents in former IS strongholds.

"This is a drop in an ocean of mass graves expected to be discovered in the future in Syria," said Awad.

Life & Style

Actor Gene Wilder, star of Mel Brooks movies, dies at 83

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

A Frizzy-haired actor who brought his deft comedic touch to such unforgettable roles as the neurotic accountant in "The Producers" and the mad scientist of "Young Frankenstein," has died. He was 83.

Wilder's nephew said Monday that the actor and writer died late Sunday at his home in Stamford, Connecticut, of complications from Alzheimer's disease. No funeral arrangements have been announced.

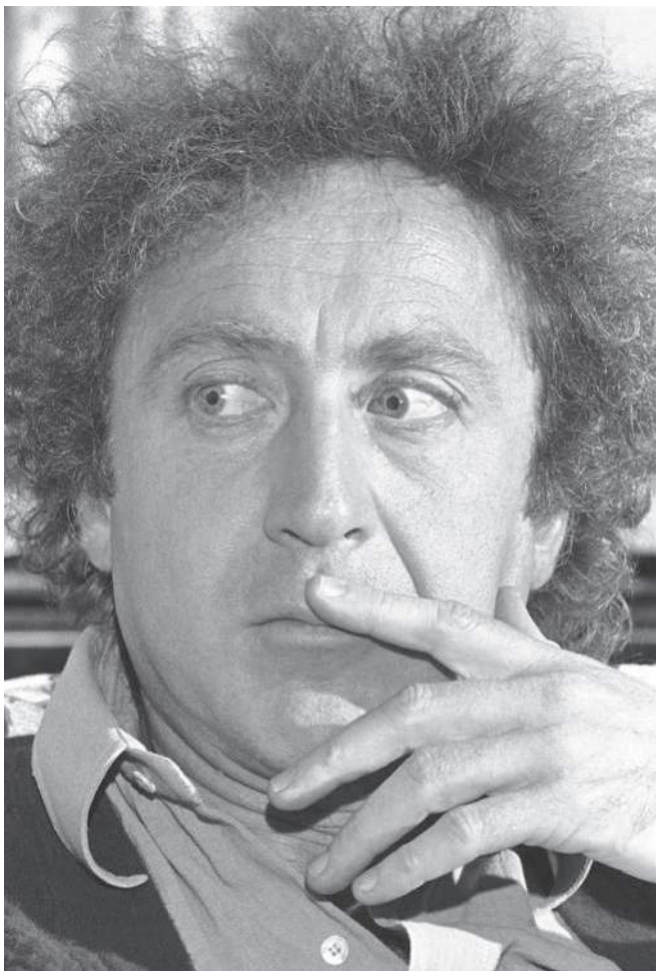
Jordan Walker-Pearlman said in a statement that Wilder was diagnosed with the disease three years ago, but kept the condition private so as not to disappoint fans.

Wilder started his acting career on the stage, but millions knew him from his work in the movies, especially his collaborations with Mel Brooks on "The Producers," ''Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein." The last film — with Wilder playing a California-born descendant of the mad scientist, insisting that his name is pronounced "Frahn-ken-SHTEEN" — was co-written by Brooks and Wilder and earned the pair an Oscar nomination for adapted screenplay.

"Gene Wilder, one of the truly great talents of our time, is gone," Brooks wrote in a statement Monday. "He blessed every film we did together with his special magic and he blessed my life with his friendship. He will be so missed."

With his unkempt hair and big, buggy eyes, Wilder was a master at playing panicked characters caught up in schemes that only a madman such as Brooks could devise, whether reviving a monster in "Young Frankenstein" or bilking Broadway in "The Producers." Brooks would call him "God's perfect prey, the victim in all of us."

But he also knew how to keep it cool as the boozing gunslinger in "Blazing Saddles" or the charming candy man in the children's favorite "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory." His craziest role: the therapist having an affair with a sheep in Woody Allen's "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex."



AP
In a Dec. 27, 1977 file photo, actor Gene Wilder looks thoughtful during an interview in New York.

Tweeted Jim Carrey: "Gene Wilder was one of the funniest and sweetest energies ever to take a human form. If there's a heaven he has a Golden Ticket."

Cloris Leachman, Wilder's "Young Frankenstein" co-star, tweeted, "Oh, Gene, it's too soon!"

Wilder was close friends with Richard Pryor and their contrasting personas — Wilder uptight, Pryor loose — were ideal for comedy. They co-starred in four films: "Silver Streak," ''Stir Crazy," ''See No Evil, Hear No Evil" and "Another You." And they created several memorable scenes, particularly when Pryor provided Wilder with directions on how to "act black" as they tried to avoid police in "Silver Streak."

But Wilder would insist he was no comedian. He told Robert Osborne in a 2013 interview that it was the biggest misconception about him.

"What a comic, what a funny guy, all that stuff! And I'm not. I'm really not. Except in a comedy in films," Wilder said. "But I make my wife laugh once or twice in the house, but nothing special. But when people see me in a movie and it's funny then they stop and say things to me about 'how funny you were.' But I don't think I'm that funny. I think I can be in the movies."

A Milwaukee native, Wilder was born Jerome Silberman on June 11, 1933. When he was 6, his mother suffered a heart attack that left her a semi-invalid. He soon began improvising comedy skits to entertain her, the first indication of his future career.

He started taking acting classes at age 12. In 1961, he became a member of Lee Strasberg's prestigious Actor's Studio in Manhattan.

That same year, he made both his off-Broadway and Broadway debuts using the stage name Gene Wilder. He won the Clarence Derwent Award, given to promising newcomers, for the Broadway work in Graham Greene's comedy "The Complaisant Lover."

A key break came in 1963 when he co-starred with Anne Bancroft in Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage," and met Brooks, her future husband.

Brooks cast Wilder in "The Producers" as Leo Bloom, an accountant who discovers the liberating joys of greed and corruption as he and Max Bialystock (Zero Mostel) conceive a Broadway flop titled "Springtime For Hitler" and plan to flee with the money raised for the show's production. Wilder's performance received a supporting actor Oscar nod.

In Gene Wilder's madcap roles, a magical mania

NEW YORK (AP)—Gene Wilder was terrific when he was calm and collected. But when he lost it, he was transcendent.

Often playing opposite enormous, big performers like Zero Mostel and Richard Pryor, Wilder was a straight man who often wound up in a straight jacket. His enormous range was everything in between: from a quiet sweetness to a madcap lunacy.

Wilder died Sunday in Stamford, Connecticut, from complications of Alzheimer's disease at age 83.

With wild, Harpo-like hair, a melancholy face and a mad glint in his eye, Wilder was an earthquake of neuroses that tremored with blinks and sweat before cracking and quivering in hysteria.

"I can't stop! I'm hysterical!" he screamed as Leo Bloom in "The Producers" when the well-planned flop refused to flop. His partner (Mostel) tries to calm him by throwing a glass of water in his face. A beat. "I'm wet! I'm wet! I'm hysterical and I'm wet!"

Born Jerome Silberman in Milwaukee, Wilder first began performing for his mother, who was badly marred by a heart attack when Wilder was six, as a way to entertain and cheer her up. He would later be schooled by Lee Strasberg at the Actor's Studio, but that early aura - of laughter with darkness around- never left Wilder.

"Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination," he sang in "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." His Wonka was at once iconic and impossible to pin down. His combination of charm and whimsy, darkness and strangeness breathed life into Roald Dahl's tale. His Wonka was too much for initial audiences (the film was a box-office disappointment) but grew to be adored for its off-kilter complexity.

"I'm an actor not a clown," Wilder was fond of saying.

His early big-screen roles were feats of lunacy: the kidnapped undertaker of "Bonnie and Clyde," the doctor who falls for a sheep named Daisy in Woody Allen's "Everything You Wanted to Know About Sex."

"My quiet exterior used to be a mask for hysteria," he told Time magazine in 1970. "After seven years of analysis, it just became a habit."

Wilder's bug-eyed knack for neurotic extremes, though, was only so winning because of his underlying tenderness. Fully embodying his characters, Wilder was utterly unpredictable, moment to moment.

Carol Kane says Gene Wilder gave her a second chance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — At age 23, Carol Kane was fresh off a Best Actress Oscar nomination with no prospects on the horizon. The phone hadn't rung for a year, she said. Then Gene Wilder called.

"Out of the blue I got a call from Gene saying that he'd like to meet me about 'The World's Greatest Lover,'" Kane said Monday. "(It) was a comedy, which I'd never done before. I have no idea why he thought I could do it, but he was a purist, he was kind of a poet and I met him and he asked me to do this movie with him."

Wilder, who died Sunday at 83, wrote, directed and starred in "The World's Greatest Lover," about a baker (Wilder) and his wife (Kane) who move to Hollywood during the silent film era to enter a talent search for someone who might compete with Rudolph Valentino.

Kane, 64, was only 25 by the time it wrapped, but getting that call from Wilder still felt to her like "a second chance," she said.

She remembers Wilder being compassionate and inspirational as a director but serious and sensitive, too.

"(He was) clearly one the great clowns—the Chaplin of talkies in some ways," she said.

"The World's Greatest Lover" was not particularly well-received when it came out in 1977. Kane thinks it might not have gotten the right publicity.

"It was a little under the radar unfortunately," she said. "But I think that it holds up beautifully and that it's lovely and funny and worth a second look."

Kane would stay in touch with Wilder on and off over the years, and she loved seeing the friendship of Wilder, Mel Brooks and Dom DeLuise (who also starred in "The World's Greatest Lover" as the studio mogul).

Wilder and Kane reunited in 2001 to perform in three classic one-act farces at the Westport Country Playhouse, but she'll always remember the great significance of that phone call more than 40 years ago.

"He was a gentle man and a gentleman ... a true, true artist," Kane said. "We never saw anyone like him before or after."

Parole is denied for the 9th time for John Lennon's killer

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — John Lennon's killer will remain behind bars after being denied parole for the ninth time.

The New York state Board of Parole on Monday announced that it has again denied parole to Mark David Chapman, who on Dec. 8, 1980, shot and killed the former Beatle outside his luxury Manhattan apartment.

The 61-year-old Chapman pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and is serving a sentence of 20-years to life in Wende Correctional Facility in western New York.

In a description of its decision, the parole board noted that Chapman has since described the murder as "selfish and evil." The board concluded that the factors supporting Chapman's parole were outweighed by the premediated and "celebrity-seeking" nature of the crime.

"Your release would be incompatible with the welfare of society and would so deprecate that seriousness of the crime as to undermine respect for the law," the board wrote.

Chapman was notified of the board's decision last week. He was last denied parole in 2014, and will be eligible to seek parole again in 2018.

In his 2014 parole hearing, Chapman told the board that he still gets letters about the pain he caused in his pursuit of notoriety.

"I am sorry for causing that type of pain," he said. "I am sorry for being such an idiot and choosing the wrong way for glory."

At a 2010 hearing, Chapman recalled that he had considered shooting Johnny Carson or Elizabeth Taylor instead, and said again that he chose Lennon because the ex-Beatle was more accessible, that his century-old apartment building by Central Park "wasn't quite as cloistered."

The transcript of his latest hearing wasn't immediately released.

Construction worker dies on 'Blade Runner' sequel set

LOS ANGELES (AP)— A construction worker was killed on a set Friday for the untitled sequel to "Blade Runner" in Budapest, Hungary.

A statement from the film's production company Alcon Entertainment says the worker was on a soundstage at Origo Studios "underneath a platform, upon which the set was constructed, when it suddenly collapsed. The cause of the accident is not yet known."

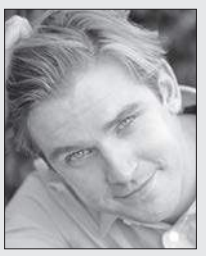
The movie was not shooting at Origo Studios at the time.

No other details were provided.

The sequel to the 1982 sci-fi film stars Harrison Ford, Jared Leto, Ryan Gosling, Robin Wright, Mackenzie Davis and Barkhad Abdi. The movie is being directed by "Sicario" and "Prisoners" filmmaker Denis Villeneuve.

Warner Bros. has scheduled the film for release Oct. 6, 2017.

'Beauty and the Beast' producer posts character images


Stevens

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A producer on the upcoming live-action adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast" has invited his social media followers to be his guest to a first look at several characters from the film.

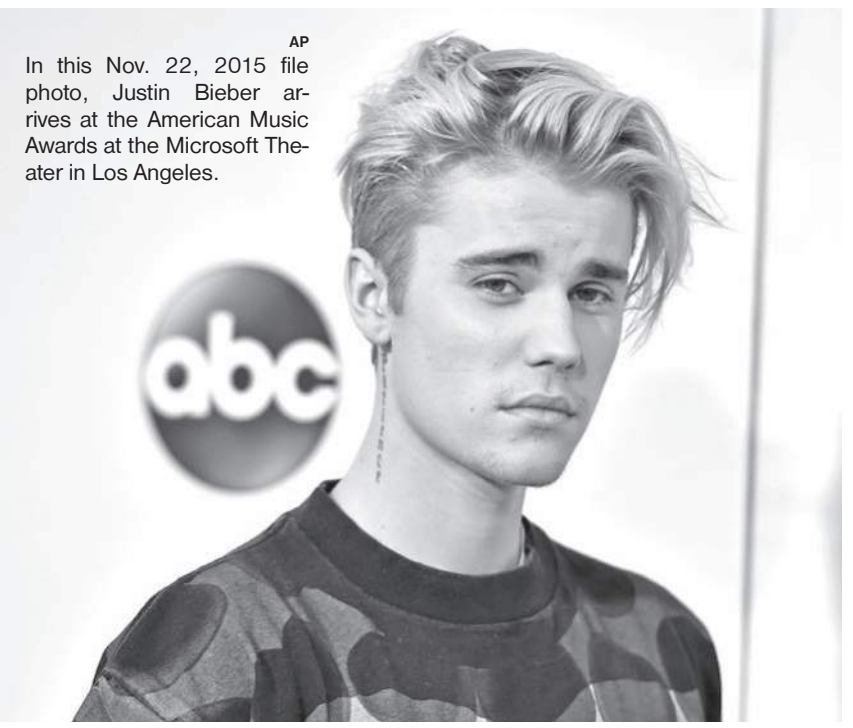
"Beauty and the Beast" co-producer Jack Morrissey posted images on his Facebook account Friday of computer-generated renditions of Ewan McGregor as candelabra Lumiere and Ian McKellen as clock Cogsworth, as well as Dan Stevens in his human prince form.

Morrissey says the images are from a sneak preview that will be included in the 25th anniversary edition of the 1991 animated "Beauty and the Beasty" out Sept. 20.

Emma Watson, who plays protagonist Belle, was previously glimpsed in a teaser trailer released earlier this summer.

Disney's live-action "Beauty and the Beast" is set for release March 17, 2017.

Oops! Bieber not back on Instagram after a 2-week break


AP
In this Nov. 22, 2015 file photo, Justin Bieber arrives at the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — False alarm! Justin Bieber hasn't actually returned to Instagram.

Bieber's account briefly returned to public view Monday for his nearly 78 million Instagram followers with week-old pictures and videos of Bieber introducing his new dog, Todd.

However, the pop star later turned it off again and said on Twitter , "it was an accident."

Bieber left Instagram two weeks ago amid criticism of pictures of him and Lionel Richie's daughter Sofia from fans of Bieber's ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez.

Before his account disappeared, he responded to the negativity by writing, "I'm gonna make my Instagram private if you guys don't stop the hate this is getting out of hand, if you guys are really fans you wouldn't be so mean to people that I like."

Bieber's return was celebrated Monday on Twitter with #JustinReactivatedParty. It followed the #JustinDeactivatedParty trend that popped up when he left Instagram.

Just like us: Taylor Swift reports to jury duty, dismissed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Nashville judge dismissed pop star Taylor Swift as a potential juror in an aggravated rape and kidnapping case on Monday, Davidson County District Attorney General's Office spokesman Ken Whitehouse said.

"She asked to be left off out of concern for an upcoming trial in Denver where she was —she used the term 'groped' —by a fan at a meet-and-greet," Whitehouse said.

Swift told the judge she would be more than willing to serve on a jury in any other type of case, he said.

In the Denver case, Swift filed a counterclaim last year after a former radio host sued her.

David Mueller claimed he lost his job after a member of Swift's security team falsely accused him of grabbing the singer's buttocks backstage during a 2013 photo session. Muller claimed the person who assaulted Swift was actually one of his superiors.

Swift's counterclaim states, "Ms. Swift knows exactly who committed the assault."

Before Swift was dismissed from the jury pool on Monday, she took time to chat and take selfies with other potential jurors.

Bryan Merville, who owns a technology infrastructure company, said he took a photo with Swift for his daughters, who are huge fans. He said he was one of about 140 people waiting in a holding area Monday morning before they were called to separate courtrooms. About 15-20 asked Swift for a photo or autograph.

Fox News calls Tantaros an 'opportunist' in lawsuit response

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News Channel says Andrea Tantaros is not a "victim" but "an opportunist" in its response to the sexual-harassment lawsuit filed last week by the former Fox News host.

In that response, filed Monday in New York, the network is calling for arbitration which it says is in accordance with her employment agreement. The network notes that she is already a party to pending arbitration after having been suspended by Fox, which has accused her of breaching her employment agreement by writing a book without prior authorization by the network.

Fox News claims it learned of Tantaros' book, "Tied Up in Knots ... How Getting What We Wanted Made Women Miserable" in March, a few weeks before it was published.

"This Court should compel Tantaros to proceed in the arbitration proceeding that is already underway," Fox News contends.

Tantaros last week sued the network, its ousted chairman and other top executives, claiming they retaliated after she detailed unwanted sexual advances made by her one-time boss, Roger Ailes. Tantaros, who described Fox in her lawsuit as a "sex-fueled, Playboy Mansion-like cult," said after she complained last spring about Ailes, one of his top deputies, William Shine, warned her that Ailes was a "very powerful man" and that she "needed to let this one go."

Shine was promoted to co-president of Fox News after Ailes resigned last month amid sexual harassment complaints by another former anchor, Gretchen Carlson, who claimed in a lawsuit of her own that she was fired for refusing his sexual advances. He has denied those accusations.

Commenting on Fox's filing, Tantaros' lawyer, Judd Burstein, said, "Fox's right to arbitrate is a legal issue on which I am confident Ms. Tantaros will prevail." He added, "If Mr. Shine and his minions are innocent, why do they want this dispute to be resolved in the shadows (with arbitration)?"

Woman can't make the break from her decades-long affair

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a married man for 30 years. Our relationship started a few months after he got married. I know it was wrong to begin the relationship, but it started just as a way for me to get sexual experience. For him, I think he was infatuated with the idea that a younger woman found him attractive.

I asked him out knowing he was married, thus safe from expecting a commitment. I don't think either of us expected our so-called relationship to last this long. I have dated other men (who knew nothing of him) and gave birth to a child (not his), so it's not like he's the only man I see. (Of course, he knows I date other men.)

Many times I have thought about ending our affair because I feel guilty, and sad for his wife. My problem is our conversations are intoxicating, our kisses, touches and lovemaking are like no other. Must I stop seeing him? Or do you think what others don't know won't hurt them?

CAN'T STOP SEEING HIM

DEAR CAN'T STOP: The problem with the rationale "what others don't know won't hurt them" is that, at some point, the truth usually comes out. And when it does, there are usually plenty of hurt feelings. Frankly, I'm surprised your lover has been able to keep you under wraps for 30 years without the two of you being spotted somewhere.

If you are truly sad for your lover's wife, you should end the affair. However, because it has taken you three decades to discover your conscience, I somehow doubt you will.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an asexual woman in my 20s, and I feel misunderstood. When I "come out" to people, they usually make a rude or vulgar comment. "Asexual" is the accepted term for people who are sex-repulsed or who don't experience sexual attraction. I fit both of those definitions.

People want to know what's wrong with me: Is it a hormonal imbalance? Was I molested? Am I secretly gay? One man even suggested that sleeping with him would "fix me"! If it comes up around family, they always suggest that someone will come around and change my mind.

Abby, is 25 years old too young to know for sure that I don't want to have sex? How can I respond to these rude comments?

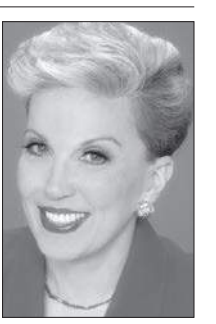
ACE IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR ACE: Twenty-five is definitely old enough to know for sure whether you have a sex drive -- or not. Because you are open about your lack of interest in sex, you should not become defensive if someone asks an ignorant question about it.

If the person asks if it's a hormonal imbalance, the result of having been molested or if you are gay, all you have to say is, "Nope, nope and nope!" As to the man who confused his member with a magic wand, "No, thanks!" would have been a polite response to an obviously deluded individual.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I would love to see you refer to couples without children as "child-free" instead of "childless." Not every couple wants to have children. The term "childless" sounds like something is missing.

FREE IN MASSACHUSETTS

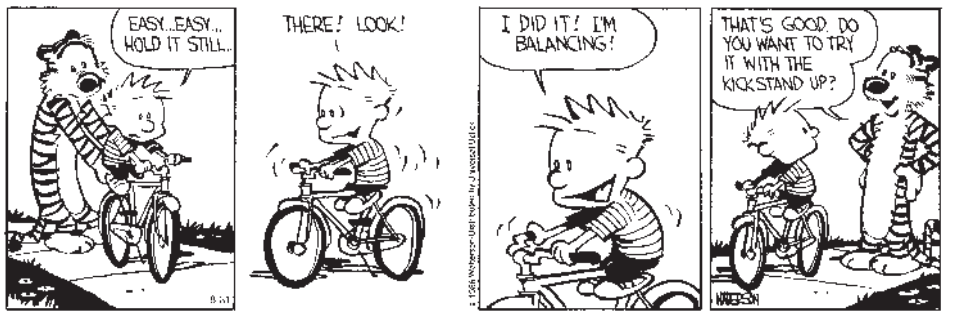
DEAR FREE: You make a good point. But I usually couch my terminology according to what the writer has stated. If someone refers to her- or himself as childless, I feel it would be wrong to imply something the person didn't.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

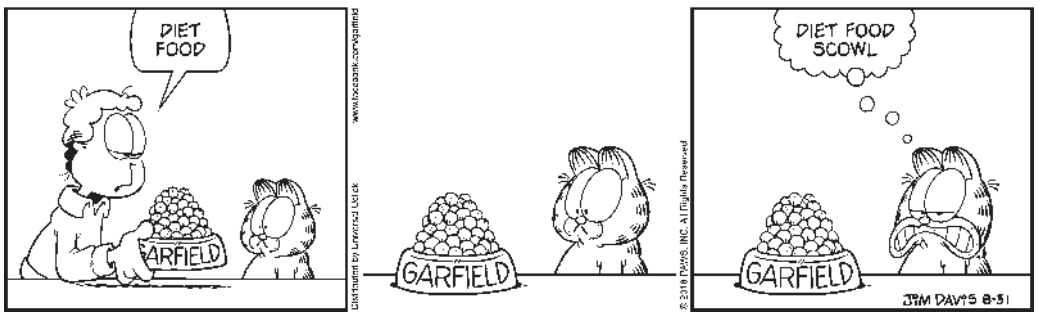
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



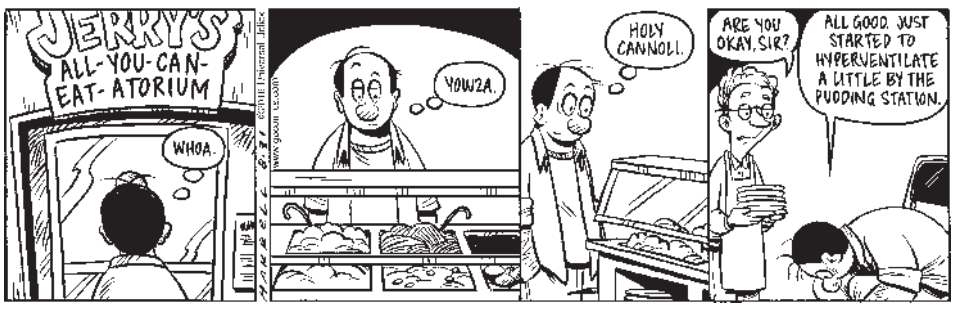
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lifeless
5 Chest muscle
8 Norwegian seaport
12 "Born Free" lioness
13 Grenada gold
14 "... three men in —"
15 Turn signals
17 Missile shelter
18 Argentinian dance
19 Frozen spike
21 Oscar-winner Kedrova
24 Request
25 Youngster
28 Abba of Israel
30 Clean air org.
33 Quarterback Marino
34 Grown-up
35 Pirates' potation
36 Enjoy Vail
37 Mideast strip
38 Vipers
39 The Browns, on scoreboards
41 Utah national park
43 In this manner
46 "Yippee!"
50 "Yeah, right!"
51 Philosophers
54 Painter Joan
55 Charged bit
56 Nest egg choices
57 Org.
58 Hot tub
59 The Big Easy acronym

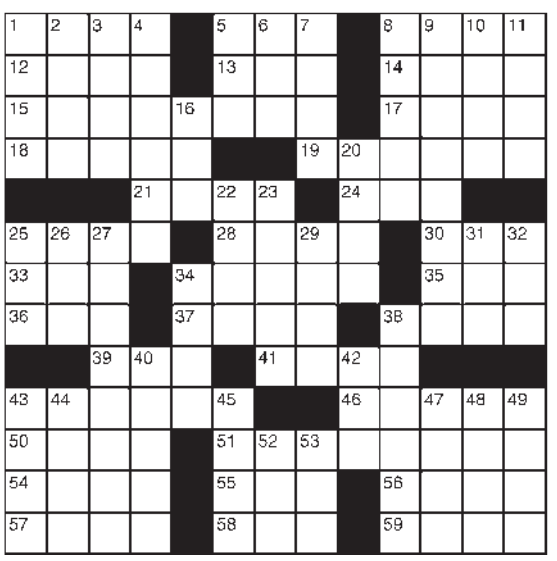
DOWN

1 Arrears
2 Jazzy Fitzgerald
3 Z — zebra
4 Hang down loosely
5 "The Bells" author
6 Mess up
7 "— fan tutte"
8 Desert haven
9 Decals
10 Temporary calm
11 Reed instrument
16 Japanese pond carp
20 Quitter's word
22 Spartan queen
23 Full of excited chatter
25 QB's goals
26 Tibetan bovine
27 Knee-length pants
29 Jai —
31 Young seal
32 Mornings (Abbr.)
34 Mellows
38 Darth Vader's first name
40 Spill the beans
42 Possess
43 Peru's capital
44 Nile bird
45 Elevator name
47 Medal earner
48 Spoken
49 Greek mountain
52 Jump
53 — tizzy

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	A	S	H	■	A	A	A	■	B	E	A	T
O	L	E	O	■	P	B	S	■	E	T	N	A
P	I	A	■	Y	P	U	S	■	C	A	N	T
■	■	■	D	A	S	■	A	Z	A	L	E	A
A	F	S	O	P	■	D	U	F	■	■	■	■
P	R	I	G	■	C	O	L	U	M	B	U	S
E	A	R	■	P	A	N	T	S	■	R	C	A
S	T	I	M	J	L	U	S	■	D	I	L	L
■	■	■	A	M	A	T	■	B	R	E	A	K
L	O	G	J	A	M	■	.	A	Y	■	■	■
O	R	E	O	■	A	Q	U	A	R	I	U	S
G	A	R	A	■	R	U	G	■	U	R	D	U
E	L	M	S	■	I	O	S	■	N	E	O	N

Yesterday's answer 8-31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sara Ramirez, 41; Chris Tucker, 44; Zack Ward, 46; Richard Gere, 67.

Happy Birthday: Use past connections to get ahead now. Calling in favors and offering incentives will help you get what you want. Don't let personal limitations deter you from doing your best. Producing what's expected of you will also allow you to make personal changes that will ease your responsibilities and stress at home. Your numbers are 8, 12, 21, 26, 34, 38, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep an open mind, but don't buy into something that sounds too good to be true. Determine what's important to you and find the best way to go about getting what you want. Don't rely on others or let anyone take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Taking on more responsibilities will be limiting, but could also bring rewards. Dealing with children or handling other people's money will give you a greater sense of what you would like to do professionally. Don't be afraid to make a change. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Constructive criticism can help you avoid making a mistake. Problems with people who are a poor influence will arise. Don't allow anyone to put you in a vulnerable position. Protect against loss, abuse and being used. Discipline will be required. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Taking part in a cause you believe in will change your opinion about someone. Do your homework, ask questions and don't overreact. Be open to expanding your knowledge as well as your friendships. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be amazingly on target with your choices. Scan the Internet for alternatives to the way things are being done, and you will come up with solutions to problems that will impress your friends and colleagues. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You or someone close to you will experience an emotional revelation that will change the dynamics of your relationships. Explore your options before taking someone's word as gospel. Questioning things is good, but acting out of fear is not. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Personal alterations will make you feel good about the way you look. A serious talk with someone you want to collaborate with will result in an opportunity to explore a new project and partnership. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Trust in the people who have stood behind you in the past. Your ability to draw people together will be your saving grace. Leave time for romance and don't forget to celebrate your victory with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Let go of the past. If someone wants to reconnect, remember why you parted ways in the first place. Temptation, indulgence and emotional manipulation are all apparent. Keep your wits about you and your thoughts to yourself. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Back away from emotional manipulation. You will be better able to make quality decisions if you stay level-headed and refuse to let others intervene. A unique twist to the way you handle personal matters will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Not everything will be as it appears. Don't make assumptions. A money matter needs to be addressed before you can take on more debt. Incorporate the ideas you have used successfully in the past to get ahead now. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Refuse to give in to uncertainty or pressure. Do your due diligence and get to the bottom of any situation you face. Not everyone you deal with will be honorable regarding his or her intentions. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, adaptable and intuitive. You are well-rounded and proactive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	5	4	1	3	8	6	
9								
7								
4				9	1	5	7	8
2								1
8								3
	6						4	
		1	6	2	9	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	1	3	8	6	7	5	2
5	2	6	7	1	4	9	8	3
7	3	8	5	9	2	6	1	4
9	4	7	8	3	5	2	6	1
8	1	3	2	6	9	4	7	5
6	5	2	1	4	7	3	9	8
1	8	9	4	7	3	5	2	6
3	7	5	6	2	1	8	4	9
2	6	4	9	5	8	1	3	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BLOCKS Solution: 5 letters

P	E	P	D	O	G	E	L	G	N	A	T	C	E	R
R	M	L	L	E	V	E	L	B	E	E	S	W	A	X
O	J	A	E	E	R	E	B	M	U	N	R	G	L	E
G	S	S	T	M	T	O	Y	S	E	E	U	Y	P	M
R	T	T	E	S	E	T	L	S	W	S	T	B	H	I
A	S	I	A	M	E	N	E	O	T	I	A	A	A	X
M	L	C	N	R	A	G	T	R	C	O	R	B	B	T
M	L	E	E	U	T	G	A	S	S	T	N	N	E	U
I	A	M	V	A	U	L	T	T	I	M	E	E	T	R
N	W	E	O	G	A	A	E	F	S	Q	U	A	R	E
G	O	N	M	I	C	E	A	A	S	O	L	I	D	S
N	L	T	T	K	L	C	S	A	L	T	P	I	L	E
O	L	R	M	A	T	R	I	X	X	L	O	A	D	E
L	A	N	D	S	C	A	P	E	A	Y	V	A	E	H
M	H	E	A	T	E	R	T	Y	E	N	M	I	H	C

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 8/31

Alphabet, Artifact, Baby, Base, Beeswax, Cement, Cheese, Chimney, City, Colored, Elements, Games, Hallow, Heater, Heavy, Landscape, Lego, Letter, Level, Load, Long, Martial Arts, Matrix, Mixture, Move, Number, Pile, Plastic, Play, Postage Stamp, Programming, Rectangle, Salt, Solid, Square, Stack, Start, Steel, Stone, Sugar, Text, Time, Tower, Toys, Unit, Vault, Walls

Yesterday's Answer: Volleyball

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 24 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Li' Hands Music is looking for Music Artist. Experienced in Voice Coaching. Send resume to little-handsmusic@yahoo.com.

Job Vacancy Announcement

Office Worker

- Minimum of 3 years experience with sauna management, for and ATV operations.
- Mandarin language fluency required.

Salary $6.55/hr.

R&H USA INVESTMENT CORP., LTD.
PMB 268A, PO Box 10002, Saipan, MP 96950
Call: 287-8855

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **(13) Greenskeeper**
- **(2) Housekeeper**

Submit completed employment application form at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman III
PMB 1020 PO Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Auto Mechanic - Must have atleast 2 yrs. work related experience. Excellent diagnostic/repair skills of vehicle systems. High self motivation.

Submit Applications To:
AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Call 235-NEWS

GALAXY II
SNACK BAR/SNACK MOBILE

COOK (2)
- 1-2 years exp. Commercial cooking
- At least high school graduate

BAKER (1)
- 1-2 years exp. Commercial baking
- At least high school graduate

Please send resume to:
Galaxy II Snack Bar/Snack Mobile
Call: 234-5542 to apply

WANTED

Cement Laborer

- Cement handling experience preferred.
- Will train motivated individuals
- Wages $8.25

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Restaurant Waitress (2): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
Please no phone calls.

IT&E
Life In Motion

The following full-time position is available in our organization:

Accounting Assistant
(Temporary up to One Year)

The Accounting Assistant assists the DFS Accountant in providing bookkeeping and administrative support, as needed. The Accounting Assistant will perform a variety of accounting clerical and bookkeeping tasks to include collating documents, processing invoices, reconciling accounts and maintaining administrative files and records. The Employee is expected to carry assignments through to completion with necessary guidance and supervision.

Minimum qualifications:

- Education: High School graduate with college or technical school accounting coursework
- Work Experience: Two years of experience in bookkeeping or as an accounting clerk

Interested candidates must apply online at our website, http://www.ite.net by September 2, 2016.

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, we afford equal opportunity to all applicants and employees for hire and promotion without regard to race, color, origin, gender, age, marital status, religion, veteran status, or disability or genetic information
We are also a Drug Free Workplace.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Invites qualified US workers to apply for this vacant position:

GENERAL MANAGER

Qualifications: Ideally with a degree or diploma in Hospitality, Tourism or Business Management with a minimum of ten years management experience in the Front Office, Housekeeping or Sales & Marketing of a Hotel or Resort of significant volume and preferably and with at least 3 years of experience in an executive or senior management level capacity. Must be able to lead a management team, develop and execute strategic business plans that define profitability objectives, operational/product goals, guest loyalty and satisfaction and team member engagement objectives. Must possess exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills. Planning, problem-solving and financial reporting skills are essential. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the Resort, ensuring that it runs in a smooth and efficient manner with maximum efficiency, profitability, consistent high service levels while providing the best possible guest experience.

Application forms may be obtained at the HRD Office, Kanoa Resort. Interested applicants may also send their resumes to hr@kanoaresort.com
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than September 5, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CENTURY TOURS INC.

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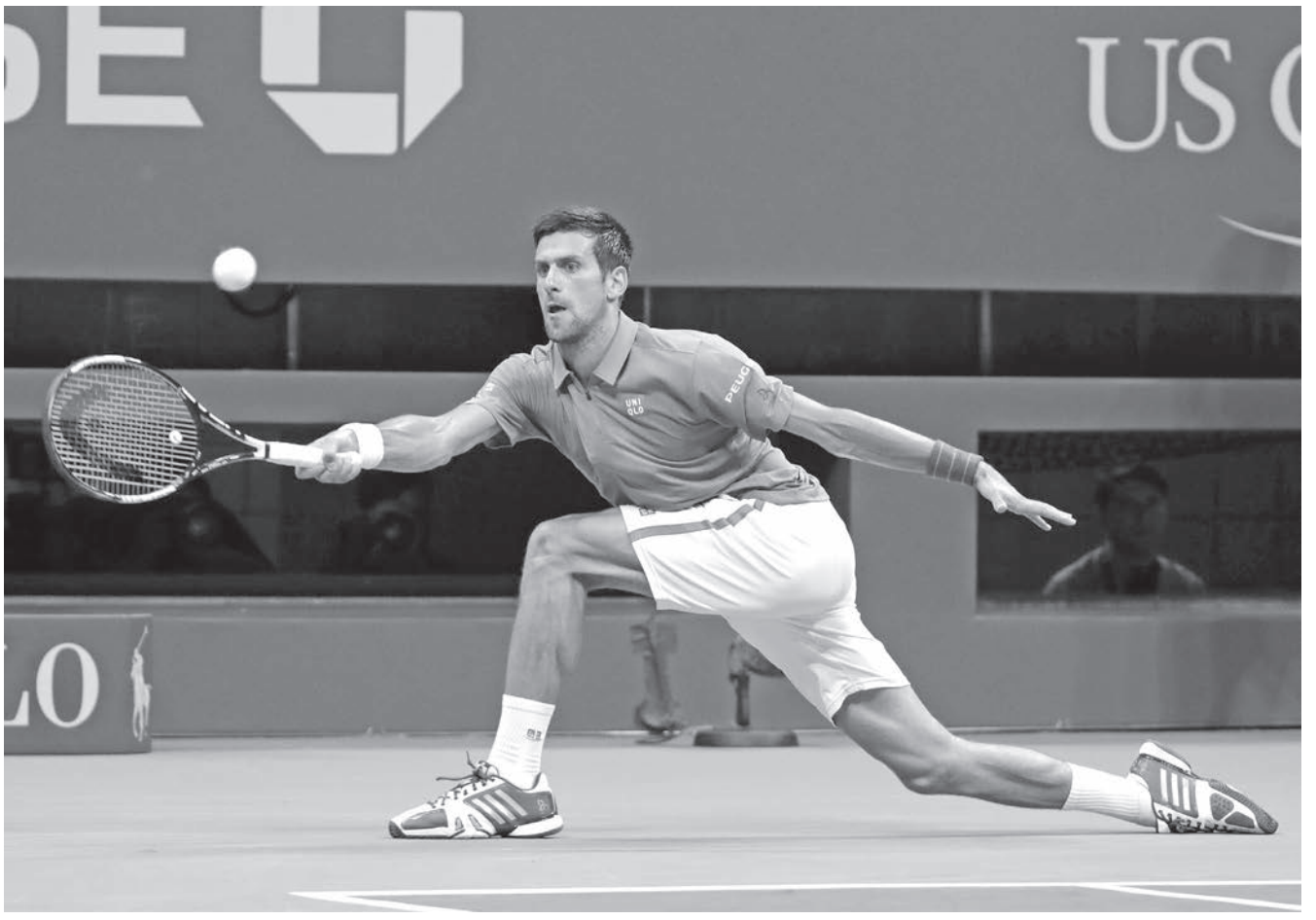
Djokovic's right arm gives him trouble during win



AP

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot to Jerzy Janowicz, of Poland, during the first round of the US Open tennis tournament, Monday, Aug. 29, 2016, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Novak Djokovic double-faulted, then shook his right arm and grimaced.

Seconds later Monday night, a weak serve produced a wince from the U.S. Open's defending champion, then was followed by a missed forehand that gave away a set—the first set dropped by Djokovic in the first round of any Grand Slam tournament since 2010.

While he managed to emerge with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 victory over Jerzy Janowicz of Poland, there were plenty of signs of trouble, starting with a visit from a trainer who massaged Djokovic's bothersome arm after only five games.

Asked about his health during an on-court interview, Djokovic deflected the question, saying, "I don't think it's necessary to talk about this now. I'm through. I'm taking it day by day."

When the subject arose at his news conference, Djokovic again avoided addressing the topic, saying the trainer's visit "was just prevention; it's all good."

During the match, Djokovic hit first serves around 100 mph, sometimes slower - 25 mph or so below what's normal for him. He hit second serves in the low 80s mph. He flexed that right arm, the one he has used to wield a racket on the way to 12 Grand Slam titles, and appeared generally unhappy, covering his head with a white towel at changeovers.

Djokovic's coach, Boris Becker, gnawed on his fingernails, looking nervous as can be.

All in all, Djokovic's issues figure to loom large as the tournament progresses, and therefore were the most noteworthy development on a Day 1 at Flushing Meadows that did include drama elsewhere.

There was 20th-seeded John Isner's comeback from two sets down to edge 18-year-old Frances Tiafoe before a rowdy, standing-room-only crowd at the new Grandstand. And 26th-seeded Jack Sock's five-set victory over 18-year-old Taylor Fritz in another all-American matchup.

More, too: A first-round loss by Rio Olympics gold medalist Monica Puig, and French Open champion Garbine Muguruza's complaints about having trouble breathing after dropping the first set of a match she would go on to win in three.

This was the No. 1-ranked Djokovic's first match at a major since losing to Sam Querrey in the third round of Wimbledon, which ended the Serb's bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam after titles at the Australian Open and French Open. He exited the Rio Olympics in the first round this month, then sat out the Cincinnati Masters because of a sore left wrist.

"After all I've been through in last couple of weeks, it's pleasing, of course, to finish the match and win it," said Djokovic, who lost to his next opponent, Jiri Vesely, at Monte Carlo in April. "Look, each day presents us some kind of challenges that we need to overcome, accept and overcome."

The wrist appeared to be just fine against Janowicz, a former top-20 player who reached the semifinals at Wimbledon in 2013 and is now ranked 247th after his own series of injuries.

Earlier in Arthur Ashe Stadium, Rafael Nadal stood near the net after winning his first Grand Slam match in three months - 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 against Denis Istomin - and unraveled the thick wrap of white tape protecting his all-important left wrist. He said he's still not back to hitting his forehand the way he does when he's at his best.

Nadal's afternoon match was played with the new $150 million retractable roof open under a blue sky, while offering some extra shade on a day when the temperature reached 90 degrees.

The good news for Nadal, he said afterward, is that the pain is gone from his wrist, which whips those violent, topspin-heavy forehands that are the key to his success - 14 of his 21 winners came off that wing.

The bad news for Nadal?

He still is working on feeling comfortable hitting down-the-line forehands, in particular, after sitting out—not just zero real matches, but barely any practice, either—from his withdrawal at the French Open in late May to the Olympics.

"Not easy to go 2½ months out of competition, in the middle of the season, without hitting a forehand," Nadal said. "I need to have the confidence again with my wrist."

Both Nadal and his coach, Uncle Toni, described the way Rafael changed the way he hits a forehand during the Rio Games to try to avoid pain.

Both said things are improving.

But as Toni noted: "We need a little time."

Istomin, ranked 107th, was not likely to give Nadal much of a test. So what did he think of Nadal's play Monday?

"For the first set, I was feeling that he was not hitting hard," Istomin said. "A lot of short balls."

Nadal's summation of his day: "Not very good; not very bad."

Broncos name starting quarterback: Siemian

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Trevor Siemian couldn't be rattled.

Not by the knee injury that ended his college career at Northwestern and scared away everyone but the Denver Broncos, who made him the 250th overall pick in last year's draft.

Not by his six-month audition for the Broncos' starting QB job that began with him as the dark horse against veteran Mark Sanchez and first-round draft pick Paxton Lynch.

He wasn't even unnerved Monday when coach Gary Kubiak informed him he'd won the job - making him the only QB with no passing attempts to take over a defending Super Bowl champion in Week 1.

"I feel like it's the right decision," said Kubiak, whose team opens against Carolina on Sept. 8 in a title game rematch. "I believe in this kid and what he can do for our football team."

Siemian was just as calm after the announcement as he's been every other day during his remarkable rise from part-time college starter to Peyton Manning's surprise successor.

"I'm not trying to be Peyton. I could probably get in a lot of trouble trying to be a first ballot Hall of Famer," Siemian said. "So, those shoes are way too big to fill. I'm just trying to be the best man I can be every day, be the best teammate and take it from there."

He has no plans to hit up Manning's phone, either.

"No, I'm sure he's pretty busy," Siemian said. "He's probably got some commercials to shoot or something."

Siemian says he pays no mind to the stress of the job. And he has no designs on changing his understated style, no plans to switch from the quiet, leader-by-example type to one who's more vocal.

"I don't think I want to change who I am or who I am in the locker room. I think we're really fortunate here we've got a lot of great leadership here in the locker room," Siemian said.

Siemian realizes a lot of NFL fans are asking who he is.

"That's a tough question," Siemian said. "I like playing football. I try to be a good teammate, work every day, put my head down and be the best guy I can be."

Siemian learned Kubiak's West Coast offense last year when he had a birds-eye view of the Broncos' QB conundrum that required the coach to gather his team every Monday from mid-November on to inform the players whether Manning or Brock Osweiler would start.

Kubiak said he won't pare the playbook for Siemian despite his inexperience - his only NFL snap was a kneel-down last year.

"If there's one thing that is a big strength of Trevor's is how much he can handle," Kubiak said.

Kaepernick's decision to sit through anthem scrutinized

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—From the White House to San Francisco police union headquarters, Colin Kaepernick's name came up Monday as his decision to sit down during the national anthem reached far beyond football.

And many aren't thrilled with the 49ers quarterback's strong words about why he is doing it : To instigate change and challenge authority when it comes to race relations and what he considers police brutality.

Even his former coach, outspoken Michigan leader Jim Harbaugh, chimed in from afar in disagreement with Kaepernick's tactics - clarifying some earlier remarks that questioned the quarterback's motivation.

"I apologize for misspeaking my true sentiments. To clarify, I support Colin's motivation. It's his method of action that I take exception to," Harbaugh posted on Twitter.

A day after Kaepernick called Donald Trump "openly racist," the Republican presidential candidate fired back on Seattle's KIRO radio.

"I have followed it, and I think it's personally not a good thing. I think it's a terrible thing," Trump said. "And you know, maybe he should find a country that works better for him. Let him try, it won't happen."

Kaepernick, who has sat through the anthem for all three 49ers preseason games so far, is prepared to keep fighting for what he believes in - even alone.

"The fact that it has blown up like this, I think it's a good thing. It brings awareness," Kaepernick said Sunday. "Now, I think people are really talking about it. Having conversations about how to make change. What's really going on in this country. And we can move forward. ...There is police brutality. People of color have been targeted by police."

Martin Halloran, the San Francisco Police Officers Association president, sent a letter Monday to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and 49ers CEO Jed York denouncing Kaepernick's "ill-advised" statements and a "naiveté" and "total lack of sensitivity" toward police, along with an "incredible lack of knowledge" about officer-involved shootings.

Cubs rally for victory against Pirates in 13

CHICAGO (AP)—Miguel Montero hit a game-ending RBI single in the 13th inning, and the Chicago Cubs rallied for a wild 8-7 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday night.

Dexter Fowler, Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo set the stage for Montero's clutch swing with consecutive RBI singles against Jeff Locke (9-8), plating the tying run. After Ben Zobrist was walked intentionally, Montero lined a clean single into left field.

Rob Zastryzny (1-0) got his first major league win despite allowing Josh Harrison's sacrifice fly in the top half of the inning. Jorge Soler and Willson Contreras homered for the Cubs, and Javier Baez collected four hits.

Pittsburgh had won eight straight road games. It fell 1 1/2 games back of St. Louis for the second NL wild card.

Gregory Polanco and Josh Bell helped the Pirates build a 6-3 lead with opposite-field homers against Jake Arrieta, but Contreras belted a two-run shot to center against Neftali Feliz in the eighth and Soler connected for a tying solo shot in the ninth against closer Tony Watson.

Baez was thrown out at the plate to end the 10th and 12th innings. Catcher Francisco Cervelli made a nice lunging tag to get Baez on Rizzo's inning-ending double play in the 10th, and then corralled left fielder Starling Marte's outstanding throw in time to get Baez in the 12th.

AP

Chicago Cubs starting pitcher Jake Arrieta (49) tags out Pittsburgh Pirates' Starling Marte (6) at home plate during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 29, 2016, in Chicago.

Rizzo, one of the leading candidates for NL MVP, also struck out with runners on the corners for the final out of the eighth. But his single in the 13th drove in Fowler with the tying run.

Bell's one-out shot to left in the fourth was Pittsburgh's first hit of the game. With two outs and runners on first and second in the sixth, Polanco drove Arrieta's first pitch over the wall in left for a 4-3 Pittsburgh lead.

Polanco also hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the sixth inning of the Pirates' 3-1 win at Milwaukee on Sunday. He was batting just .138 (4 for 29) against Arrieta before his team-best 21st homer.

Arrieta was charged with six runs—matching a season high, also against Pittsburgh on July 8—and five hits in 6 1/3 innings. The ace right-hander went 4-0 with a 1.98 ERA in his first four August starts, recalling his dominant second-half run to the NL Cy Young Award a year ago.

It came to a crashing halt against a most unlikely opponent. Arrieta was on the hook for just his third loss in 14 career regular season starts against the Pirates before the rally in the ninth. He also tossed a five-hit shutout at Pittsburgh in the NL wild card game last October.

Cardinals 6, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Stephen Piscotty scored on a throwing error in the ninth inning after Carlos Martinez struck out a career-high 13, leading the St. Louis past Milwaukee.

With two on and nobody out in the ninth, Yadier Molina dropped down a bunt. Reliever Tyler Thornburg (5-5) threw to third base for a force out, but Jonathan Villar's throw to first was wild, allowing Piscotty to score.

After Martinez held Milwaukee to one run over six innings, the Brewers scored four runs in the seventh to take a 5-3 lead. St. Louis tied it in the eighth on a two-run homer by Randal Grichuk off Corey Knebel.

Indians 1, Twins 0, 10 innings

In Cleveland, Jason Kipnis' 10th-inning single scored Chris Gimenez as Cleveland handed Minnesota its 11th straight loss.

Kipnis lined a 1-0 pitch from Brandon Kintzler (0-1) with one out to left-center to finally break up the scoreless game.

Abraham Almonte pushed a bunt past Kintzler and beat the throw to first to start the inning. Gimenez fouled off two bunt attempts before poking a single through the right side with Almonte moving to second.

Third baseman Miguel Sano fielded Rajai Davis' slow roller. Third base umpire Ron Kupla ruled Sano tagged Almonte and the call was upheld after a Cleveland challenge.

Kipnis then hit the second pitch from Kinztler for the game-winner.

Mets 2, Marlins 1

In New York, Yoenis Cespedes homered with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the New York Mets a victory over the Miami Marlins.

Jose Reyes dashed home to score the tying run in the eighth on a dangerous collision at the plate. Two innings later, Cespedes, who sat out Sunday's loss to Philadelphia after his nagging right quadriceps flared up, launched a no-doubt drive to left-center on a 1-1 pitch from Nick Wittgren (4-3).

Tigers 4, White Sox 3

In Detroit, Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the eighth inning to lift Detroit.

Justin Upton also went deep for the Tigers, who pulled within a game of Baltimore for the American League's second wild card.

Red Sox 9, Rays 4

In Boston, Rick Porcello became the majors' first 18-game winner and the first Red Sox pitcher in 70 years to open a season 13-0 in Fenway Park, going seven solid innings in Boston's victory over Tampa Bay.

Mookie Betts hit his 30th homer, a solo shot, and drove in two runs for the Red Sox, who hold the AL's first wild-card spot but had lost four of five.

Nationals 4, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Tanner Roark threw seven impressive innings, Jayson Werth hit a solo homer and Washington beat Philadelphia.

Roark (14-7) allowed four singles and struck out five. Marc Rzepczynski tossed a perfect eighth and Mark Melancon finished off the four-hitter.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Josh Donaldson hit his fourth homer in two days and Jose Bautista also went deep in support of Marco Estrada, leading Toronto past Baltimore.

The Blue Jays lead the third-place Orioles by four games in the AL East. Baltimore has lost four out of five and is clinging to the second wild card.

Donaldson hit a solo homer in the fourth to tie it 1-1. The AL MVP had three homers in a 9-6 win over Minnesota on Sunday.

Royals 8, Yankees 5

In Kansas City, Dillon Gee kept the Royals' momentum going with six sharp innings, Alcides Escobar hit a three-run homer and Kansas City beat the New York Yankees.

Gee (6-7) allowed only four hits and a run in the latest impressive start by the Royals' staff, helping the reigning World Series champions win for the 18th time in 22 games.

Rangers 6, Mariners 3

In Arlington, Yu Darvish struck out nine in 6 2/3 innings and Carlos Beltran homered among three hits, helping Texas beat Seattle.

The American League-leading Rangers won the first of six straight games at home against the two teams chasing them in the AL West and dropped the Mariners into third place, a game behind Houston and 9 1/2 back of Texas.

Astros 6, Athletics 0

In Houston, Jose Altuve homered, Joe Musgrove and three relievers combined on a four-hitter as Houston beat Oakland.

Musgrove (2-2) struck out seven, walked three and allowed three hits over 5 1/3 innings, and then Luke Gregerson, Pat Neshek and Brad Peacock closed things out. Musgrove had allowed 13 runs over his last two starts.

Rockies 8, Dodgers 1

In Denver, Jon Gray pitched six scoreless innings, Nick Hundley hit a two-run homer and the Colorado beat NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Gray (9-6) surrendered four hits and struck out eight in a crisp performance for his first win since Aug. 2.

Angels 9, Reds 2

In Anaheim, Mike Trout and Albert Pujols each hit one of the Angels' five home runs in a win over Cincinnati.

Trout went 3 for 4 with two RBI and two runs, joining Alex Rodriguez as one of two players to score 100 runs five times before his age-25 season.

Lakers sign summer league standout Zach Auguste

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers have signed forward Zach Auguste after his solid summer league performance.

The Lakers announced the signing Monday.

Auguste averaged 5.3 points and 4.0 rebounds in four games for the Lakers in Las Vegas summer league play.

The 6-foot-10 Notre Dame product averaged 14.0 points and 10.7 rebounds for the Irish last season as a senior.

Auguste is the 16th player signed by the Lakers heading into training camp. Los Angeles added Chinese veteran Yi Jianlian to their frontcourt and re-signed veteran forward Tarik Black earlier this month.

In Milwaukee, Bucks have re-signed free-agent forward Steve Novak.

Terms of the deal announced Monday were not disclosed.

Milwaukee signed the 33-year-old Novak on Feb. 22, but he appeared in only three games before a left knee injury forced him out for the rest of the season.

Before signing with Milwaukee, Novak played in seven games for Oklahoma City last season.

Novak, a 6-foot-10 forward from Marquette, has appeared in 459 career games, including six starts, averaging 4.7 points and 1.3 rebounds per game while shooting 43.1 percent from 3-point range in 10 seasons. He also has played for Houston, the Los Angeles Clippers, Dallas, San Antonio, New York, Toronto and Utah.

The Rockets drafted Novak with the 32rd overall pick in the 2006 NBA Draft.

Love has many choices for US Ryder Cup squad

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III has four weeks to find four players to fill out his U.S. team, and there won't be a lack of information.

And to hear him Monday morning, there won't be a lack of players.

"Anybody in the top 100 has to be our radar because a guy could get hot the next two weeks and move himself to the Tour Championship and be in the running for the FedEx Cup," Love said. "And I get to pick him on Sunday night."

The Barclays ended U.S. qualifying for the eight automatic spots, and while there was a flutter of excitement from Rickie Fowler, there was no change among the top eight when Fowler collapsed over the final four holes. Zach Johnson wound up getting the final spot, joined by Brandt Snedeker, Brooks Koepka, PGA champion Jimmy Walker, Patrick Reed, Phil Mickelson, Jordan Spieth and U.S. Open champion Dustin Johnson.

AP
Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III has four weeks to find four players to fill out his U.S. team.

Europe's nine automatic qualifiers were set one week earlier.

Now comes the hard part for Love and European captain Darren Clarke.

Clarke makes his three choices Tuesday. On a team that already features five Ryder Cup rookies, he is looking hard at experience and appears set on Martin Kaymer and Lee Westwood. Two rookies who stand out are Russell Knox, a two-time PGA Tour winner this season who is No. 20 in the world, making him the sixth-highest ranked European; and Thomas Pieters, the Belgian loaded with power who won in Denmark on Sunday.

Also being considered is Luke Donald, who is slowly rounding into form. Donald has two runner-up finishes in the last five months, and he has a 10-4-1 record in his four previous Ryder Cups.

In a change this year, Love will have two more FedEx Cup playoff events before having to select three players. The fourth player won't be announced until the Tour Championship ends Sept. 25 and players head for Hazeltine for the Ryder Cup the following week.

His reference to the top 100 was the FedEx Cup—the remaining field at the Deutsche Bank Championship this week—and 59 Americans were among those 100.

Love mentioned the "Billy Horschel Rule" as to why so many might be under consideration. Two years ago, right after the picks were made, Horschel won the BMW Championship and the Tour Championship to capture the FedEx Cup.

So what to do?

Love stressed the importance of the eight qualifiers, at one point saying it was time for them "to take ownership of the team." Love was part of the Ryder Cup task force that spread the picks over the length of the FedEx Cup so the U.S. team could get its hottest players. He didn't specify what constituted a "hot player," nor was there any way of knowing such form would carry over to the matches when they start Sept. 30.

30 Japanese visitors sign up for Plumeria Swim

Marianas Visitors Authority has announced that 30 off-island swimmers and snorkelers from Japan have registered so far for the 2nd Annual Plumeria Swim that will be held this Saturday at Kilili Beach.

Local swimmers are urged to register early and no later than the Sept. 2 deadline. The Plumeria Swim, formerly the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race, will bring swimmers to the historic World War II tanks in the Saipan lagoon.

"It's all systems go for next weekend's Plumeria Swim," said acting MVA managing director Judy Torres. "We are in close communication with our Japan office, which is working with the swimmers coming to Saipan for the event. We're looking forward to hosting the event at the new location, which is also more convenient for participating residents."

Entry forms are still available on the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

The event has four race categories and welcomes swimmers with or without flippers. The cost for CNMI residents with valid I.D. is $20 for the 500m or 1,500m swim; $25 for the flipper race; and $60 per team for 2,000m relay swimming—up to four members per team. The flipper race requires swimmers to use wetsuits or life jacket and fins along with mask and snorkels.

The race will begin at 8:30am, followed by an island-style breakfast and awards ceremony at the beach. Awards will be given to overall male/female, junior male/female, and male/female by age. Mandatory orientation and the last day to register will be from 4:30pm to 5:30pm this Friday at Paseo de Marianas. Participants must be in good health with snorkeling or diving experience.

The event is jointly organized by MVA and the Community Sports Center Foundation of Japan. Additional sponsors include Japan Marine Recreation Association, Japan Recreational Diving Industry Association, Japan Scuba Association, Japan Wetsuits Manufacturers Association, University Life Sport Education Society, and Northern Mariana Diving Operators Association. Co- sponsors include Delta Air Lines, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, DFS, and the CNMI Division of Public Health.

For more information, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or call MVA community projects specialist Ed Diaz at 664-3210 or email ediaz@mymarianas.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

then drained three more shots from the parking lot in consecutive fashion midway in the opening canto.

Pamintuan, who hit most of his outside shots as JP Mambas defense or the lack of it gave him more time and space to eye his target, recorded all his 19 points in the first half, lifting Shirley's to a 34-17 halftime advantage. Shirley's doubled up JP Mambas after 20 minutes of play as the former capped the opening half with two straight triples—one each from Isaiah Bordon and John Jugos.

Jugos brought his good shooting in the early minutes of the second half, as he fired Shirley's first 5 markers to keep their safe lead. The rest of Jugos teammates also hit several easy shots in the second half as JP Mambas continued to give the opposing squad open looks at the basket.

Shirley's finished off JP Mambas by burying three consecutive triples—two from Deion Sabino and one more from Bordon. Shirley's had a total of 11 triples in the match, while JP Mambas posted only one.

Meanwhile, Fiesta will have the psychological edge in its make-or-break game against Shirley's this weekend, having beaten the latter in their first three meetings.

Shirley's 57 — Pamintuan 19, Pollisco 9, Jugos 8, Sabino 6, Bordon 6, Nicdao 5, Catungal 4.

JP Mambas 38 — Ong 11, De La Torre 8, Raho 6, Rabago 5, Calibo 4, Chan 4.

Scoring by halves: 34-17, 57-38.

2018

From Page 28

ball will also run from July 16 to 26 (no games in all events on July 22, reserved for celebration of cultures) for the elimination phase, while gold medal matches are slated for July 28. Soccer (both men's and women's divisions) will follow volleyball's schedule. The Micro All-Around and paddling will be held only for two days with the former to take place on July 20 and 21 and the latter on July 25 and 26.

Softball and baseball will both run in the first week of the Games (July 16 to 21) for the elimination and will continue on July 23 for the semis, while July 24 is for the medal round. Swimming and spearfishing have similar three-day competitions, but on separate dates with the pool races scheduled from July 19 to 21. Spearfishing will be on the second week of the Micro Games or from July 24 to 26.

Tennis matches are also set in the first week (July 16 to 21) and in two more playing days (July 23 and 24) in the second, while table tennis will be contested only from July 25 to July 27. Traditional sailing will run from July 16 to 20 for the preliminaries and July 21 for the medal round, while weightlifting and wrestling competitions will only take place for two days or on July 26 and 27 and July 20 and 21, respectively.

Meanwhile, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, who forwarded the copy of the schedule of events to NMSA members, encouraged local federations to start planning for their participation in the Micro Games at this early and work on their fundraising activities.

In the 2016 Micronesian Games, the CNMI only sent athletes and officials in athletics, weightlifting, swimming, canoe racing, baseball, spearfishing, and men's and women's basketball competitions. Team Marianas brought home 14 gold medals, 15 silvers, and five bronzes from Pohnpei.

RACE

From Page 28

Race added.

The daughter of CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race is among the many rookies on the Gauchos' roster and loves the challenges she faces as one of the newest members of the team.

"I think it's always great when you get to play on a new team. It builds experience and it's almost always fun playing the sport you love. Every coach has his or her own style, so of course training here is different. One of the biggest changes is weightlifting. At Saddleback, we'll sometimes have entire practices only in the weight room. There are also fitness standards the coach has set and if you don't meet them, then you don't play," the Marianas High School graduate explained.

Race and the Gauchos won't be starting their season until Sept. 2 when they play MiraCosta College from the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference, but they are scheduled to have their first official preseason match today versus Cuyamaca College, also of the PCAC.

Now that Race has joined the growing list of CNMI athletes getting opportunities to play in the collegiate ranks, she encouraged those who are still on the island to keep playing and introduce themselves to coaches/scouts.

"It's not impossible to become a college athlete if you are from Saipan. There are many student-athletes that have the potential to play on a collegiate level, but they have to reach out to coaches. People don't know about Saipan and the talent that is there, so you have to make yourself known. Also, only about 20% of colleges are Division I, so it's important not to think it's your only option. There is also Division II, Division III, NAIA, and junior colleges," Race said.

2016 Endless Summer Beach Volleyball Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Russ Quinn serves during his and Dave Rillera's game against Bruce Berline and Dan Westphal during the 2016 Endless Summer Beach Volleyball Classic held over the weekend at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

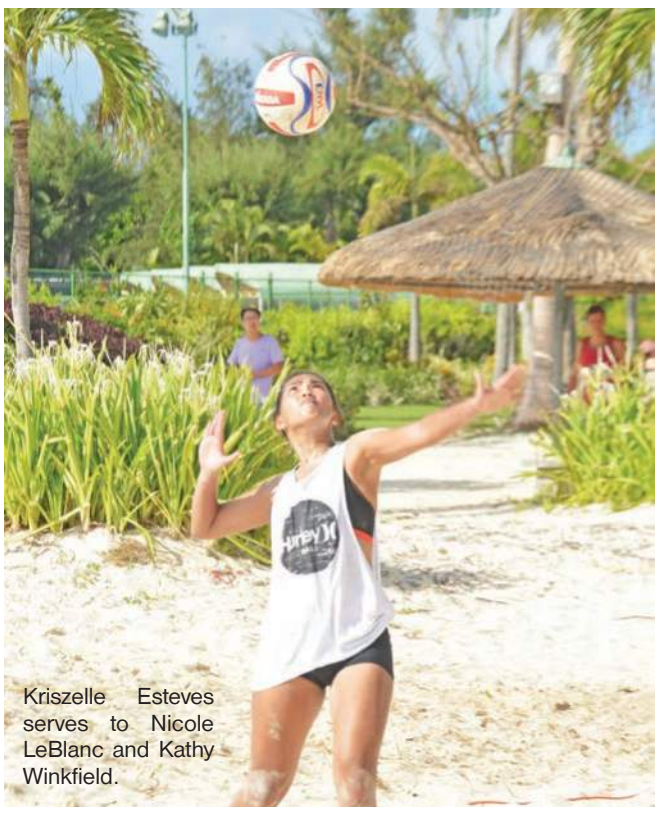
Dan Westphal serves to Steven Beyer and Nick Gross.

Tyce Mister, left, attempts to block a shot from Russ Quinn.

Nicole LeBlanc receives a shot from Kriszelle Esteves, while teammate Kathy Winkfield stays close in the action.

Chris Nelson kneels for a return.

Knohlynn Gechig receives a serve from Shawn Davis.



Kriszelle Esteves serves to Nicole LeBlanc and Kathy Winkfield.

Nick Gross bumps the ball, while teammate Steven Beyer looks on.

Djokovic's right arm gives him trouble during win

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cubs rally for victory against Pirates in 13

PAGE 25

Race gets spot on collegiate team

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Gabrielle Race, second left, stays close on defense against a Personal Finance Center Lady Crushers player during a training match early this year at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo. Race is now in California and will suit up for the Saddleback College.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Gabrielle Race has earned a spot on the Saddleback College's women's soccer team in the California Community College Athletics Association.

"We are in the Orange Empire Conference. On this team, I have often been playing offensive center midfield, which is a new position for me," said Race, who suited up for the CNMI Women's National Team in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2017 Round 1 in Guam in June before getting ready for college and joining her new squad last month.

California Community College Athletics Association, according to its website, oversees 105 athletics programs for more than 26,000 student-athletes and is considered a breeding ground for student-athletes aiming to jump into NCAA and other bigger collegiate athletics associations.

Race's team—the Gauchos—were ranked first going into the conference playoff last season. Saddleback College, which is located in Mission Viejo, had an overall 16-4-2 win-draw-loss record—the best mark since the program started in 2003—and conference slate of 12-2-2 last year. The Gauchos dueled NCAA Division CSU Dominguez Hills in a scrimmage recently and lost, 0-2.

"The team and coaching staff (headed by BJ McNicol) are all very good. I feel like I match up well with most of the team, but there are some players that I look up to and strive to be as good as,"

See RACE on Page 26

Shirley's sets up duel vs Fiesta for finals slot

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's Coffee Shop's John Jugos, center, drives against Fiesta's Elmer Esdrelon, left, and Arjay Nonato during their earlier playoff game in the Tan Holdings caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's Coffee Shop crushed JP Mambas, 57-38, in the playoff game in the 2016 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium to remain in contention for the last finals berth.

Shirley's will face defending champion Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan this Friday for a spot in the finale, while JP Mambas has been eliminated. The winner of Shirley's-Fiesta duel will challenge Kanoa Resort in the title game. Kanoa had earlier secured the first finals berth and will have a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round after pounding Fiesta in the winner's bracket semifinals, 77-55.

Aaron Pamintuan made sure Shirley's will still have a chance for the second finals ticket after knocking in the early triples that allowed his team to gain a sizeable lead against JP Mambas. He scored Shirley's first 8 points, including back-to-back treys and

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

2018 Micronesian Games schedule out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Organizers of the 2018 Micronesian Games have released the tentative schedule of events for the quadrennial meet that will be held in Yap.

The Games will run from July 15 to 28 and will feature 18 competitions: athletics, baseball, 3x3 basketball, basketball, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball, Micro All-Around, paddling, soccer (men's 11 aside and women's 7 aside), softball (for women), spearfishing, swimming, table tennis, tennis, traditional sailing, weightlifting, and wrestling.

Athletics will start on July 16 or one day after the opening ceremony on July 15 and will be until July 19. Basketball games, on the other hand, will be spread for 9 days (July 16 to 26) for the elimination round, while the finals is set for July 28. The 3x3 caging will have three days of preliminary games or from July 19 to 21, while the medal round is scheduled for July 23.

Beach and indoor volley-

See 2018 on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Athletes compete in the 110m hurdles during the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.